

## Row could delay arms control pacts

WASHINGTON (R) — A dispute between the Soviet Union and the United States over verification of the 1987 intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty may complicate negotiations on two other crucial arms control agreements, U.S. officials said Friday. They fear the dispute over an X-ray scanner which the United States wants to use to check the contents of missile canisters leaving a factory in the Soviet Union may also strengthen right-wing opponents of arms control agreements within the White House and Congress. "This dispute points up the necessity for even more precise scrutiny of the language and nuances of the treaties and will focus our attention on that even more than before," said one Bush administration official. "It's going to be slow and painful anyway getting the language right. This could make it slower," he said. The problem arose last weekend at the missile plant of Volinsk, when Soviet officials refused to allow U.S. technicians to inspect the contents of three missile canisters with an X-ray system called "cargo scan." The X-rays are needed to check the canisters do not contain SS-20 missiles banned by the treaty.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية ناصرية بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Volume 15 Number 4342

AMMAN SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1990, SHA'BAN 20, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Activists exert efforts to counter Jewish immigration

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group representing various public organisations met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday and discussed with him efforts to counter the threats inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The agency quoted a spokesman for the group as saying that the seven-member delegation briefed the prime minister on their contacts and efforts to alert the public on the threats posed by the massive influx of Jewish immigrants to Israel and the occupied lands. Earlier, the group handed petitions in this regard to the ambassadors of the United States and the Soviet Union and sent letters to the heads of Arab states. Prime Minister Badran voiced appreciation of the group's efforts, which constituted "one more step towards enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab people in the face of Israel's challenges." The prime minister emphasised the need to maintain national unity in the face of the threat posed by Jewish immigration into Palestine, the spokesman said.

## U.N. chief due here March 27

AMMAN (Petra) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will arrive in Jordan on a four-day private visit March 27. The visit comes in response to an invitation by His Majesty King Hussein.

## Arafat, Nathan meet again

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan in Tunis Friday for the second time in eight days, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency said. Nathan, who runs a pacifist radio station in the Mediterranean, recently completed four months in jail for seeing Arafat on an earlier occasion. The agency quoted Nathan as saying, "I am campaigning for the sake of peace and against this law." Arafat told the agency, "Peacekeepers among the Palestinian and Israeli peoples will not forget what he has done. Generations to come will appreciate his struggle."

## India's deputy prime minister quits

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal Friday handed in his resignation from the country's second most important political post, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said. He quoted sources close to Lal as saying he was upset over what he saw as a "campaign of vilification" against him. There was no immediate official confirmation of the resignation, potentially a major crisis for the 16-week-old minority government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

## Hurd files to Oman

LONDON (AP) — Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd flew to Oman Friday to attend a meeting of European Community (EC) foreign ministers and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The foreign secretary's departure was delayed for 30 minutes while he waited for important documents to be brought to the airport.

## Sudan plays down U.S. aid cut

ABU DHABI (R) — Sudan's Finance Minister Sayed Ali Zaki said Friday that his country would find new sources of aid to replace funds cut by the United States. Washington said last week said it had stopped military and economic aid to Sudan under a law banning assistance to governments which came to power by a coup and failed to restore democracy within eight months. "The American decision will not have any impact on Sudan because the aid represents a small part of Sudan's resources," Zaki told reporters after attending an Arab monetary conference in Abu Dhabi.

## Jordan defends Iraqi action, urges U.S. to lead efforts for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has defended Iraq against Western condemnation for its execution of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft.

"We hope that the numerous bids which we see and feel... and that aim at mistreating Iraq, not only in this case but on others, will ease," the King told the Voice of America radio.

"There has been a concentrated attack on Iraq for a long period of time without any reason to justify it," the King said in the interview in London, carried by Jordan Radio Friday.

"There is no excuse for these efforts unless one would want to think that Iraq has defended the eastern borders of the Arab countries and the Arab Order and some might see that as constituting a danger," he added.

Bazoft, 31, was hanged Thursday after being convicted of spying for Britain and Israel. "I am not fully aware of all the details of this man's case, but there is no doubt that makes me question anything related to this matter, be it the Iraqi judiciary, the investigation, or the results that the various Iraqi authorities concerned reached," King Hussein said.

The King said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher asked him this week to use his good relations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to stop the execution.

He said he conveyed the appeal, "addressed to me on a humanitarian basis," to Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi who passed it to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

King Hussein, now on a visit to London, Thursday discussed the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine with British Foreign Secretary Sir Douglas Hurd with whom he also reviewed a number of developments in the Middle East.

The King drew attention to the grave dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and urged Britain and the European Community to reactivate their role to bring about peace to the Middle East.

King Hussein said "it was inevitable" that Israel's coalition government collapse because of the pressures and tensions over the composition of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The King voiced his satisfaction with Britain's role within the EC as reflected in a recent EC statement on the Jewish emigration question.

Hurd said that his country deeply appreciates Jordan's role in peace efforts and was keen on supporting all moves to establish peace.

Earlier Thursday, King Hussein said the United States must take much greater responsibility for Middle East peace because of the political crisis in Israel and he warned that extremists on both sides could endanger world peace.

"Something needs to be done and fast," he told a luncheon of the Association of American Correspondents in London, which was held as Israel's parliament met following the government's collapse over a U.S. plan for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The King said it was not his place to suggest what the United States should do next, but reiterated that he still believes U.S. President George Bush offers great hope for peace in the region and should now give the Middle East the attention that it merits.

"I believe that the United States now, in the realities of today, must realise that it has greater responsibilities for the future of all concerned in that area on either side to the conflict, than ever before," he said.

"Without a solution to the problem, I fear that it is possible that those who have given so much and who have altered their position in the interest of peace may lose, and more extreme elements may emerge on either side to the conflict," he said.

"Then the future would look bleak and the area would be a danger to the world, on top of being a danger to itself."

King Hussein said "it was inevitable" that Israel's coalition government collapse because of the pressures and tensions over the composition of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

"Let us hope that it may be a turning point for the better and that the result will be that the voice of those who can see beyond today, and the realities of today, can be heard in the interests of peace and justice," he said.

The King stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had met every international demand, denouncing violence and recognising Israel's right to live in peace within secure borders. "The need now is for the Israeli side to do the same," he said.

The King said he was "disturbed and worried" to discover that between 45,000 and 46,000 Palestinians who had recently gone from the Israeli-occupied territories to Jordan to visit family and friends had remained in Jordan because "many of them have not been permitted to return."

He raised the possibility that this might be an Israeli strategy to depopulate the West Bank and Gaza Strip to make room for an estimated 700,000 Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel.

He also noted that there had been reports "that there is a figure of maybe 120,000 that some people consider are aliens living in Israel or in the occupied territories."

"Who are they and what does that mean is a question that needs answering sometime in the future, and hopefully it won't be answered by facts on the ground," he said.

The King said he had never opposed the right of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. But he said there must be guarantees they won't settle in the occupied territories and replace Palestinians "and drive them out of the land of their fathers and forefathers."

The King said Shamir has said the Soviet Jews won't settle in the occupied territories. "However, he has, I believe, no inclination or desire to stop any settling wherever they feel like," the King said.

## Iraq plans demonstrations to show anti-British anger

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is organising huge demonstrations throughout the country Saturday in an orchestrated show of anger at Britain for condemning the hanging of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft.

The government-controlled press announced the protests Friday and denounced British criticism of the execution.

Bazoft, 31, was hanged Thursday after being convicted by a Baghdad court of spying for Britain and Israel. An Iranian-born bachelor, he was stateless with the right of residence in Britain.

Iraq ignored appeals for clemency from world leaders and brushed aside international criticism, particularly in Western

Europe, over the execution.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz accused Britain of showing a colonial mentality in its attacks on Iraq. He warned other countries against being "dragged into this ill-intentioned campaign concocted by the British authorities."

The Defence Ministry daily Al Qadisiya, recalling the 1968 execution of several people for spying for Israel, commented:

"Iraq's policy was very clear from the start, that it does not tolerate any type of espionage and the time when Iraq was a den of spies and agents is over."

An announcement by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) published on the front pages of newspapers

said: "Huge demonstrations will take place on Saturday morning in all Iraqi governorates (provinces) to denounce the premeditated anti-Iraqi British government stand."

Britain's ambassador to Iraq, summoned home in protest at the hanging, said Friday relations with Baghdad had suffered a terrible blow.

Ambassador Harold Walker said on arrival in Britain he would be absent from his post for at least a few days to discuss the future of Anglo-Iraqi ties.

Relations with Iraq "have taken a terrible blow," he said. "I am back to discuss where we go from here."

## Jordan warns U.N. of grave impact of Jewish immigration

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Abdullah Salah, who is also the current head of the Arab group, said Thursday that Jewish immigration to Palestine was the real cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict and warned of its grave consequences on world peace.

Addressing the Security Council on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, Salah pointed out that the issue constitutes a flagrant violation of the Security Council Resolution 465 and the fourth Geneva convention.

"Jewish immigration will be at the expense of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the human rights of the Palestinians and the Syrian people in Golan Heights," Salah said. "Israel will take immigration as an excuse to continue its occupation of Arab territories, under the pretext of its need for more land to accommodate the new immigrants," he said.

Salah noted that since no peaceful settlement has yet been reached for the Arab-Israeli conflict, the immigration will mean Israel's continued rejection of "the land-for-peace" principle, which has been accepted by the international community as the basis for establishing peace in the region.

Salah called on the Security Council to translate its resolutions into action by suspending immigration or redirecting the immigrants to other countries.

The Security Council heard also criticism of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem from Arab states and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation during the one-day session Tuesday.

Israel called the meeting "the latest manifestation of the long-standing campaign against the Jewish state" and an effort to halt "all Jewish immigration to Israel, period."

The Soviet Union asked for the meeting after Israel announced plans to build housing for new immigrants, especially those arriving from the Soviet Union.

See related story on page 2

## Pretoria-ANC talks set for April 11

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The government said Friday it would open unprecedented talks with Nelson Mandela and African National Congress (ANC) leaders April 11. President F.W. de Klerk's office said in a statement the president and his cabinet would meet ANC leaders to deal with "obstacles perceived to obstruct the process toward negotiations." The talks are expected to try to set up formal negotiations on a new constitution that would give the black majority national voting rights. Friday's statement gave no additional details and there was no immediate comment from the ANC. Leaders from the ANC's exile headquarters in Zambia are expected to be part of the delegation. The organisation was banned from 1960 until last month, and many ANC leaders will be making their first trip to South Africa since leading late exile more than a quarter-century ago. De Klerk legalised the ANC and more than 60 other anti-apartheid groups Feb. 2. Nine days later he freed Mandela, who had been imprisoned for 27 years for helping to launch the ANC sabotage campaign.

## Regent stresses need to develop south

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday called for increased cooperation between the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Education to set up a polytechnic institute in the south to develop the human resources in the region.

The Regent, speaking at a meeting with members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament from the south, and district governors and other senior officials, said special attention should be directed towards developing the land as well as human resources.

The Regent said one of the means to achieve the objective was through creating new courses and technical institutes, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said reporting on the talks held at Mu'ta University.

Pointing out that Jordan lacked accurate information resources on the precise reasons for unemployment in the Kingdom, the Regent called for priority to be given to people from the south in employment in industries and other companies in the area.

Stressing the importance of developing land resources, the Regent said local councils should interact among themselves as well as with the capital and other regions through working out an effective framework for cooperation.

"It is our collective responsibility to find solutions to our problems," the Regent said.

He called for a shift from the "democracy of talks" to a "democracy of systems" and underlined the importance of consultation as the primary way to counter "destructive rumours."

The Regent listened to the problems, demands and proposals of the governorates of Maan, Tafleeh and Karak as conveyed to him by the parliamentarians and officials and voiced his full understanding of the situation, Petra said.

The agency summarised the main problems as: Effects of drought, lack of animal feed, high cost of agricultural production requirements, a ban on artesian wells and closure of pastures.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday confers with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in a meeting attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Said Ben Shaker (Petra wirephoto)

## Peres races to lead Israel; Shamir party fate in doubt

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres raced Friday to form a new government that would advance peace with Palestinians after parliament toppled Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Shamir, 74, faced a challenge for leadership within his rightist Likud Party from Deputy Prime Minister David Levy after losing a parliament confidence vote 60-55 late Thursday, political sources said.

President Chaim Herzog summoned leaders of Labour and Likud for consultations Sunday to determine which was more likely to attract enough support to reach the 61-seat parliamentary majority needed to form a government.

The Yediot Ahronot daily said Shamir was considering retirement from political life following Thursday's defeat, but another newspaper, Maariv, quoted the premier as saying "I see no reason to resign."

Israel Radiol said Likud leaders met in Shamir's office Friday morning for a discussion of the party's future course. No further details were reported. Top Shamir aides Avi Pazner and Yossi Ahimeir were not immediately available for comment.

Peres, meanwhile, launched behind-the-scenes contacts to form a new government, hoping to cash in on the support from a swing religious party that yielded the 60-55 victory against Shamir.

It was the first time an Israeli premier was formally ousted by a no-confidence motion. Past prime ministers have resigned before a vote was held when they appeared sure of losing.

Shamir remains caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed. The process of forming a coalition officially begins only after Herzog appoints a party leader to do so.

Peres told Tel Aviv schoolchildren Friday he believed about 70 parliamentarians would back him in forming a government dedicated to seeking peace with Palestinians.

Labour walked out of the unity government over Shamir's to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal to enter first-ever talks in Cairo with Palestinians.

Haim Ramon, leader of the Labour faction in parliament, told reporters Friday: "I hope we'll succeed to our main aim in toppling the Shamir government — to tell Baker yes, go to Cairo, hold the historic

meeting between Israel and the Palestinians and then continue on to bring peace to Israel."

Israelis braced for what could be lengthy negotiations by both Labour and Likud to woo four religious parties holding the key to power. Formation of the unity government assembled 15 months ago took 52 days.

"We are entering a period of political anarchy," said a Labour political source, noting the difficulty of melding a coalition between parties divided over everything from peace talks to how to define a Jew.

Likud ministers Friday were still studying their next move after the stunning parliamentary defeat.

Shamir faced a challenge from Levy, favourite son of Israel's Moroccans, the country's largest Jewish ethnic community.

"David Levy has never denied he wants to be prime minister," said Reuven Rivlin, a Likud parliament member close to Levy. A Likud political source added: "We are talking about the night of long knives."

If forced to step down, Shamir would probably recommend Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, (Continued on page 5)

## Row in W. Beirut over attack on bank chief

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A bizarre row erupted in President Elias Hrawi's government Friday after an attempt by police to arrest the governor of the central bank.

Official sources said Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Elias Al Khazen whose bodyguards burst into a board meeting at the bank's west Beirut headquarters Thursday.

The policemen punched and manhandled the respected 72-year-old governor, Edmond Naim, before being driven off by gunfire from security guards.

The reason was apparently that Naim, who keeps a tight grip on the national purse-strings, refused to release funds to the Interior Ministry to buy a fresh stock of blank passports, bank officials said.

Hrawi's government, based in west Beirut, is recognised abroad but has failed to gain control of the Christian heartland where General Michel Aoun and militia leader Samir Geagea are locked in a struggle for power.

Hrawi, Naim and Khazen are all Christians. Official sources said Hoss telephoned Hrawi and said Khazen should quit the cabinet.

Hoss told Hrawi the incident should not pass without punishment of "those responsible whoever they were," the sources said.

West Beirut branches of some 75 commercial banks closed their doors Friday to protest against the attack on Naim.

Naim, who rarely leaves the bank's headquarters because of assassination fears, has stood up to pressures from political lead-

ers, including the heads of the two competing governments.

The central bank, one of the last united institutions in a divided country, has blocked spending it considers unnecessary as part of an austerity policy.

The Lebanese constitution allows only the president to sack a cabinet minister.

The conflict, according to central bank sources, was sparked by Naim's refusal to allocate \$960,000 (\$1.5 million) that Khazen had requested for printing a million new Lebanese passports.

Khazen had just returned from London, where he made a contract with a British company to print the passports.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Naim wanted to avoid a treasury loss of a half million dollars. A bid had already been received by the central bank from a Swedish firm which offered to print the passports in a much lower price.

In Lebanon, the central bank acts as a watchdog against government overspending.

Khazen said after a late-night visit of apology to Naim Thursday: "The incident is over. Its consequences have been solved."

But the independent newspaper Al Nahar said Naim has decided to sue the interior minister on charges of attempting murder and kidnapping.

About 700 central bank employees began an open-ended strike Friday until "the instigators are brought to trial."

The central bank, minutes after Thursday's attack, suspended foreign exchange dealings.

## Carter arrives; formal meetings begin today

By Marjane M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife arrived here from Aqaba Friday evening for talks with Jordanian leaders expected to focus on Middle East peace prospects.

The couple was met at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Carter and his wife Rosalynn arrived in Aqaba from Syria earlier in the day and toured the city. They were briefed by officials on the strategic importance of the port.

Carter, who is scheduled to leave Jordan for Israel Sunday, is expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, during his stay. He will also hold talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the speakers of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament Saturday.

Carter began his four-country Middle East visit in Egypt. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told Carter Thursday that a United Nations-sponsored international conference was the best way to achieve Middle East peace.

Assad also blamed Israel for regional instability because of its "negative attitude towards peace," an official said.

Carter's talks with Assad covered international and regional issues including the situation in Lebanon.

Damascus Friday that after talks with Assad he was more optimistic than ever that Western hostages in Lebanon would be released.

"More opportunities exist now for their release than ever before," Carter told a news conference. "I see movement now... better chances than those I have seen for several years."

President Assad made it clear to me... that Syria would do everything possible to help the release of hostages," Carter said. "Syria is exerting good offices to both locate the hostages and convince those who might be holding them that hostages should be protected and released," he added.

"Statements from Tehran are very encouraging... I think there is a growing desire on the part of the Iranian government and the U.S. government to work out the problems between us."

Carter said he supported the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate freely to Israel, but said he agreed with U.S. President George Bush that they should not be allowed to settle in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights or Arab Jerusalem.

He said Bush's recent statement opposing Jewish settlement in Arab Jerusalem only restated a U.S. policy "that has existed for 25 years or so."

Carter said the United States still considers the Golan Heights, "annexed" by Israel after its capture from Syria in 1967, to be "sovereign Syrian territory."

هولاء عند الأصل



## Chances seem better than ever for release of hostages — Carter

DAMASCUS (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Friday that chances seem better than ever for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon and that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad repeated vows to help win their freedom.

Carter made the comments to a news conference in the Syrian capital on the fifth anniversary of the kidnapping in west Beirut of American newsmen Terry Anderson, 42, the longest-held of the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

"My own conviction is that more opportunities exist now for his release than ever before," Carter said.

He spoke shortly before leaving Syria for Jordan, the third leg of a tour that carried him earlier to Egypt and will also take him to Israel.

Carter said he did not know if there were any secret U.S. dealings on the matter, but noted "there are statements being made from Tehran that to me are encouraging."

"I think now there's a growing desire on the part of the Iranian government and the U.S. government to work out the problems between us and... there's no doubt that Iran has influence on those holding the hostages, although not complete control," Beirut newspapers Friday published a letter to American hostage Terry Anderson from his wife Madeleine on the fifth anniversary of his abduction in west Beirut.

Local television stations said they would later screen a videotape of his 4-year-old daughter Sukome, who has been 83 days after Anderson was kidnapped.

The night before, a pro-Iranian group called Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine released

photographs of two of the three American hostages it holds. It threatened to kill the hostages.

Anderson is held by another pro-Iranian group called simply Islamic Jihad, or holy war.

Meanwhile in Paris, two French former hostages put on blindfolds and chained themselves to a tree across from the Iranian embassy to protest the continued captivity of Anderson.

The 42-year-old chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press was seized on March 16, 1985. He is the longest-held hostage although some others have been held almost as long.

The letter from Madeleine said: "Hello Terry. I am always wondering if you have ever been able to read the letters sent to you on different occasions, or even if they were read to you, to let you know how much we love you and how different and difficult life is without you."

"The world without God is not the world, it's hell. A home with-

out a husband or father is not a home," it's hell.

"I wonder if you know that Sukome will be 5 years old in June."

"Tonight a videotape of her will be shown on TV. Will you be able to see it, to see her pretending she is talking to you, thanking you for a make-believe bike present you sent her for Christmas?"

"I wonder and wonder about so many things, but while I am wondering, hope and optimism become my weapon and God is the provider. Please keep your faith in him, my love, and know he never stops working for us."

"We are in as much captivity, Terry, only our living space is bigger here and it's shared by millions. I know you will keep well. I know you will never give up. Until we meet again soon. God bless you. We love you," the letter concluded.

The original English text of the letter was published by seven of Beirut's eight functioning daily papers, including the independent An Nahar.

## Libya starts inquiry into Rabta fire

TUNIS (R) — Libya's Justice Secretariat (ministry) has opened an inquiry into this week's fire at the Rabta plant, which is described by the United States as a chemical weapons factory, a Libyan official said Friday.

Only the ministry will be authorized to release information about the fire, he told Reuters by telephone from Tripoli.

The fire broke out Wednesday morning. Diplomats said it caused extensive damage to at least one building.

The Libyan authorities have not accused anyone of arson but revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi said Thursday that West German business interests in Libya would suffer if the inquiry found evidence that West German intelligence was involved.

Libya says the plant, 80 kilometers southwest of the capital Tripoli, is to produce pharmaceuticals and if it planned to produce chemical weapons, it would do so openly.

Diplomats in Tripoli said Friday they had received no new information since a Libyan Foreign Ministry official told them Thursday the fire had been put out and no one was injured.

Other Libyan officials have described the fire as serious and said

at least two people were killed.

The White House said Thursday the damage was extensive and the factory was probably out of action.

Tripoli was calm Friday after a demonstration about the fire outside the West German embassy Thursday, residents said. The country's only national daily, Al Fajr Al Jadid, carried Qadhafi's warning to Bonn but gave no other details.

West Germany has denied any involvement in the fire. Freelance West German technicians have continued to play a role in the project, despite legal action against several companies accused of supplying equipment to Rabta.

The fire broke out Wednesday morning, only a few days after the United States called for vigorous action by the international community to stop it making mustard gas.

The Italian ambassador in Tripoli said in a telephone interview he had the impression the plant was damaged but not completely destroyed.

Diplomatic sources said the Libyans appeared to believe it was West German businessmen who tipped off the rest of the world last week that the plant had pro-

duced about 50 tonnes of lethal mustard gas since starting production in mid-1989.

Before Qadhafi's statement, a crowd of at least 1,000 Libyans marched on the West German embassy in Tripoli shouting accusations that West Germans had started the rumors.

"Get out of our country, you lying spies" and "Germans are spies" they shouted. Police protected the embassy and the crowd dispersed without violence.

Several West German companies face prosecution at home for supplying equipment to the Rabta plant.

West German businessmen were warned several days ago that if the United States attacked the plant, it would mean the end of their business activities in Libya, the diplomatic sources said.

Last week, the White House declined to rule out any type of action against Rabta, including a military operation.

Libya has offered to cooperate with any international efforts to eliminate all "weapons of total destruction," provided the measures apply to all nations equally.

The White House said Thursday the United States was in the dark about how the fire started.

"We assume it's not functioning," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said of the plant at Rabta.

Fitzwater said at his daily press briefing: The United States had no involvement... no involvement of any kind in the fire, which occurred Wednesday.

At Thursday's regular press briefing, Fitzwater said he did not know the degree of damage to the plant.

But in an informal talk with reporters afterwards, he called the damage "extensive." He did not reveal the source of the damage assessment.

But he said the United States was in the dark about the origin of the fire.

"We don't know the origins of the fire, we don't know if it was sabotage, we don't have any idea who did it," he said.

At one point, Fitzwater said the fire could have been accidental. "Somebody could have knocked over a kerosene lamp," he said.

Fitzwater refused to comment when asked about an Israeli denial of involvement or a suggestion Thursday by Qadhafi that West German intelligence agents might be responsible.

## Rebels claim 13,000 Ethiopian army casualties

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — Northern Ethiopia rebels say they have killed, wounded or captured more than 13,000 government troops and damaged several aircraft and tanks in three weeks of fighting.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said in a clandestine radio broadcast late Thursday that 6,500 of the casualties were inflicted between Sun-

day and Wednesday.

The broadcast, monitored in Kenya's capital, said this week's fighting occurred southeast of Asmara, capital of Ethiopia's northernmost province, Eritrea.

"In earlier engagements in the past two weeks in different parts of the same front, 7,000 dergue (government) soldiers have been put out of action and the dergue has lost three burnt fighter

planes, eight tanks and four anti-aircraft carrier vehicles," the broadcast said.

The broadcast did not specify the type of aircraft destroyed, but Ethiopia's air force flies Soviet-made MiG-17s, 21s, and 23s.

It was impossible to independently verify the rebel claims and the government rarely comments on their broadcasts.

"In the last 20 days the dergue

has lost more than 13,500 soldiers as dead, wounded and captured," the broadcast said.

The rebels, who are fighting a 28-year-old secessionist war, launched their current offensive last month, ending a year-long de facto ceasefire.

The Eritreans claim to have captured Ethiopia's only deep water Red Sea port of Massawa and cut the road from the harbor to Asmara.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam's government has not acknowledged that claim, but admits the port has been closed by fighting it says continues in and around the city.

The government is also fighting a second but smaller force, the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The Tigreans have been fighting for 14 years and virtually control Eritrea's southern neighbor, Tigre province.

The Tigreans seek Mengistu's ouster and the establishment of a government patterned after that of Albania, the last hardline Marxist state in Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi met his Ethiopian counterpart Mengistu Haile Mariam Thursday to discuss peace prospects in Ethiopia's civil war, Kenyan officials said Friday.

They said Arap Moi, on a one-day trip to Ethiopia, and Mengistu expressed the hope peace talks would resume soon, but gave no further details.

Nairobi hosted meetings in November, chaired by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, between the Ethiopian government and the EPLF which is fighting for independence in the Red Sea province of Eritrea.

No date has been set for a resumption of those talks, but a fresh round of discussions between the government and TPLF is set to start in Rome on March 20.

Ethiopia and the EPLF appear ready to resume peace talks despite fierce fighting in recent weeks, a newspaper on Thursday quoted Carter as saying.

The Atlanta Constitution quoted Carter as saying formal invitations will be sent in the next few days to Haile Mariam and EPLF leader Isaias Afewerki proposing a resumption of negotiations.

Carter, interviewed in Damascus, said he and negotiations co-chairman Julius Nyerere, the former president of Tanzania, were encouraged by (the two sides) commitment to restart talks despite the high level of conflict in recent weeks.

## Bonn warns Libya not to threaten Germans

BONN, West Germany (AP) — The government Friday warned Libya after a fire at Libya's alleged chemical weapons plant in Rabta, and denounced any attempts to blame West Germany for the blaze.

"We expect there will be restraint from all threats against German citizens in Libya," said Juergen Chrobog, chief spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

Chrobog said he knew of no specific threats against West Germany or its citizens, although an angry crowd gathered in front of the West German embassy in Tripoli Thursday.

Libya leader Muammar Qadhafi said an investigation has begun to try to discover whether West German intelligence agents had anything to do with Wednesday's fire at the plant.

West German's ARD television network said Thursday its Cairo office received a statement from a group of unknown Libyan dissidents claiming responsibility for the blaze.

West Germany again rejected any suggestions by Qadhafi that it had anything to do with the fire.

"The federal government decisively rejects the Libyan attempt to blame the Federal Republic of Germany for the fire at Rabta," said Chrobog.

"We especially denounce any attempt to rouse up Libyans against us," said Chrobog.

## Arabs, Soviets condemn settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied lands

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Soviet Union and Arab states have condemned Israel's settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories as a threat to Middle East peace and a displacement of Palestinians.

But Israel refused its critics and said the real objective is to halt all Jewish immigration to Israel because it fortifies and perpetuates the state Arab states still seek to destroy.

The U.N. Security Council meeting was requested by the Soviet Union to protest Israel's settling of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and reported plans to locate a massive immigrant population in the territories.

The Soviet Union, Arab Nations and most non-aligned states have protested the practice, saying it changes the disputed area's demographics; increases the region's tensions and makes a Middle East peace settlement more difficult.

Palestinians living in the territories, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, have been rebelling since December 1987 and want to create an independent state of their own on the land.

Those speaking against Israel included the Soviet Union, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Jordan, the Arab League, Senegal, Malaysia and Cuba.

The meeting was adjourned without a vote and will be con-

tinued at a later date because diplomats were unable to reconcile U.S., Soviet, Arab and other draft resolutions, all of which criticized settlements in the territories in varying degrees of harshness.

The Soviet Union said that despite pressure to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, it could not do so, although it opposed settlement in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

It said the problem was not for the Soviet Union to restrict emigration, but for Israel to prevent settlement in the territories.

Soviet Ambassador Alexander Belonogov, in his speech to the Council, appealed to the United States and Western countries to ease their restrictions and admit more Soviet Jews so that they would not go to Israel. Most Soviet Jewish emigrants want to settle in the West, not Israel, he said.

"One sometimes hears appeals to the Soviet Union to stop Jews leaving for Israel," Belonogov said in Russian through a translator. "But we cannot possibly undertake such a step because it would be contrary to our overall course and policy of assuring all Soviet citizens equal rights and freedoms, regardless of nationality or ethnic origins."

"The question is not for the Soviet Union to impose any prohibitions," he said. "The question is that of Israel not allowing it and other citizens to settle in

the occupied territories. The responsibility lies with Israel which is violating the provisions of international law."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, told the Council that massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel was organized by "world Zionism," while millions of Palestinians remained homeless and stateless.

Kaddoumi called on the Security Council to impose sanctions against Israel, like those against South Africa. Otherwise, he said, the Middle East would continue to drift towards another war.

Belonogov and other speakers said Israel is violating the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 covering the treatment of people in occupied territories, which Israel signed. It prohibits movements of population and changing demographics.

Israeli Ambassador Johanan Ben, the acting permanent U.N. representative, told the council: "Arab states have conjured up a major diplomatic storm in a world wide effort to block the flow of Jewish immigrants. The real objective behind this campaign is to halt all Jewish immigration to Israel. Period."

He denied that Israel has a policy of directing Jewish immigrants to the territories.

Between April 1, 1989, and February 1990, 18,200 Jews immigrated from the Soviet Union and of those, only 135 settled in the occupied territories.

## Israel's religious parties emerge as power brokers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's religious parties emerged as the country's decisive political force as the Likud-Labour coalition finally dissolved in a day that went from confrontation to compromise and back again.

For tension-filled hours, the fate of the government hung on the decision of 92-year-old, Lithuanian-born religious sage Eliezer Shach, whose two-seat Torah flag party could provide the Labour Party with the majority needed to bring down the government.

When it became apparent that the Labour flag would not support Labour's no-confidence motion Thursday against the Likud-led coalition of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the focus shifted to the six-seat, ultra-orthodox Shas Party.

The Shas spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, received Likud and Labour leaders to plead their case. One by one, the country's grim-faced leaders made the pilgrimage to Yosef's apartment, dutifully wearing the skullcaps of religious Jews.

In the end, it was the abstention by five of Shas members that enabled Labour leader Shimon Peres to bring down the government of Shamir, head of the right-wing Likud.

The vote was 60-55 in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament. Shamir set off the latest crisis when earlier in the week he dismissed Peres from the coalition cabinet. This prompted Labour's

other 10 ministers to resign, bringing an end to more than five years of so-called "national unity" rule.

The reason for the breakup was differences over how to pursue Middle East peace, but the tiny religious parties quickly became more important than larger questions.

Shas and several other religious parties also will now play a critical role in determining whether the next government will be led by Labour or Likud.

The religious parties control 18 of the 120 seats in the Knesset, or parliament. Labour has 39 seats and Likud 40, meaning both must have partners to maintain power.

The 10-hour session Thursday was marked by tension and ran-

cor unseen in the Knesset since the two large parties joined forces. Shamir and Peres exchanged personal attacks and the two parties' backbenchers launched furious volleys of abuse at each other.

After some eight hours of debate, the vote was postponed for more than two hours to enable Labour and Likud leaders to meet with Yosef. A dozen policemen and security agents kept order as a crowd of about 50 people gathered across the street.

Though Peres eventually won Shas' backing, a small group of the religious party's backers stood outside Yosef's house and booed the Labour leader.

The delay in the parliamentary proceedings drew angry rebukes.

## Eastern Services picking up the awards again

*Eastern has won the Royal Jordanian Airfreight Golden Award for the year 1989*

And to this, we say ( THANKS A MILLION ) to all our valuable clients, we were honoured to serve during the past year. For we never stop looking for ways to ensure that your Cargo will be delivered promptly.

And You can be sure of our award-winning services when you choose EASTERN. So, whatever you are transporting and whenever it is going, you know the best move to make

CALL EASTERN SERVICES,

We promise you the most professional services and of course the 1990 GOLDEN AWARD PACKING, EXPORTS & IMPORTS OF AIRFREIGHT, SEA FREIGHT.

DANZAS - INTERNATIONAL FORWARDERS  
SKYRACER - SWISSAIR PARCEL EXPRESS  
TRAVEL & TOURISM SERVICES



Tel: 621775, Fax: 656270, Tlx: 23023 P.O.Box 815408 Amman - Jordan

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

#### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
17:30 ..... Educational programme  
18:00 ..... News summary  
18:05 ..... Message from Iraq  
18:25 ..... A play by Shakespeare  
19:10 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Consumer's Guide  
22:25 ..... Local programme  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Le Monde est a vous  
18:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Documentary  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Did's Comedy Show  
21:00 ..... Local programme  
21:40 ..... Consumer's Guide  
22:25 ..... News in English  
23:20 ..... Feature film: "The Far Country"

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:23 ..... Fajr  
05:40 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha

11:44 ..... Dhuhr  
15:00 ..... 'Asr  
17:40 ..... Maghrib  
19:05 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidieh, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628431  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771020  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiuta International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be easterly fresh causing dust in the eastern regions of the Kingdom. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.  
Amman ..... 6 / 18  
Aqaba ..... 14 / 28  
Dhahab ..... 5 / 19  
Jordan Valley ..... 12 / 25

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 18, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings:  
Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim ..... 653999  
Dr. Isam Abu Riza ..... 681987  
Dr. Ayman Musa Al Haj ..... 771020  
Dr. Walid Smadi ..... 683266  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Al Aqaba pharmacy ..... 670551  
Narcotics pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salan pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660

Dr. Ali Al Oumri ..... (-)  
Al Shams pharmacy ..... (985238)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Rabah Al Borini ..... (-)  
Khafiz pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630441  
Rescue ..... 630441  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 657777  
Fire Brigade ..... 691228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Police Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 661176  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 772111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 98-33200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 98-33200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642816  
Mollat, J. Amman ..... 656140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 664171/4  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdal ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Abdal ..... 6661646  
Italian, Al-Mahajra ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511/26  
Amry, Marja ..... 89161/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 6624030  
Amal Hospital ..... 674135  
ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarga National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
BIBAN:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)273535  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:00 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Helsinki, Agaba (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
07:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
07:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
07:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
08:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
08:15 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
08:30 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
08:45 ..... New York, Montreal (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Agaba (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00 ..... Baghdad (JA)  
10:05 ..... Cairo (MS)  
12:25 ..... Riyadh (SU)  
13:00 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
13:45 ..... Tripoli (LN)  
17:05 ..... Rome (AZ)  
17:30 ..... Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
23:00 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:00 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
07:45 ..... Helsinki, Agaba (RJ)  
08:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
08:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
08:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
08:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
09:3



## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan takes part in ALO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan participated in the meetings of the Arab Labour Organisation conference which ended in Cairo Wednesday. Ministry of Labour's Secretary-General Saleh Khasawneh, who led Jordan's delegation to the conference said that Iraqi minister of labour was elected as director of the Arab Labour Bureau and that Jordan was elected as a member of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO). The conference, Khasawneh said, discussed a report from the ALO director-general on the social policies in the Arab World, the employment strategy, integration in the field of labour in the Arab World and rehabilitation and employment of the handicapped.

### Apple to hold exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third annual exhibition for Apple Computer Company will be held at the Marriott Hotel between March 20-22. Apple's agents in Jordan, Ideal Systems Company, will participate. The exhibition, which is held on an annual basis by the company, displays the latest inventions and achievements of Apple Macintosh Computers Company. Specialists from the company and Ideal Systems will provide assistance.

### Waha store lottery ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — The lottery for prizes has ended at Al Waha stores. The grand prize was won by Ihsan Abassi. Congratulations from everyone at Al Waha Stores.

### Hotel marks anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of 26th anniversary of the hotel the General Manager and Mrs. Majeed Khalil held a cocktail reception on Wednesday at Al Mukhtar Ballroom, which was attended by officials, diplomats, members of the press, businessmen and friends of the hotel in Jordan.

## Bulgarian quintet performs in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lovers of chamber music in Jordan have a rare opportunity this week to relish some melodious combinations of traditional and modern pieces from a veteran group from Bulgaria — the Sofia Wind Quintet.

The ensemble, which has won wide international acclaim and one of the only seven such groups in the world, will perform "pre-classic, classic, romantic, and modern (jazz)" pieces such as Bach's Suite no. 2, Chopin's waltz, Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the bumble bee," Joplin's "The Entertainer," and Grieg's "Dancer of Amlur."

Visiting Amman upon the invitation from the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in coordination with the Bulgarian Embassy in Jordan, the group has scheduled one public performance and a private performance for students.

Flutist Rossista Ivanova, 44, the head of the group, and her four colleagues, oboist Georgi Jelasov, 52, clarinetist Atanas Kolev, 54, bassoonist Vassil Spasov, 38, and horn player Alexander Jovov, 28, are all graduates of the Bulgarian State Music Conservatory who got together 10 years ago to set up the Sofia Wind Quintet after winning international praise for their soloist performances as well as the Sofia Philharmonic and the Bulgarian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra.

Since then, the group hasn't looked back; it went ahead and reaped world acclaim everywhere it performed, from the European continent to Latin America and Asia.

"One common thing that we five share is our dedication to music since very early childhood," said Jelasov, who recalled that every member of the quintet started learning music at such young ages as seven and eight.

"In view of the 'special and intimate' cultural relations between Jordan and Bulgaria, the Sofia Wind Quintet is performing in Amman," Jelasov said. "We consider it an honour to perform in the Jordanian capital," he added.

Some outstanding comments from music lovers around the world testify to the quality of music flowing from the quintet. "Masters and virtuosos," that's how an Algerian reviewer described the five. M. Gaspardov wrote in Sofia's Narodna Kultura that "one can speak of the Sofia Wind Quintet only in singular because the superb ensemble feeling of the five members is a sufficient reason for that."

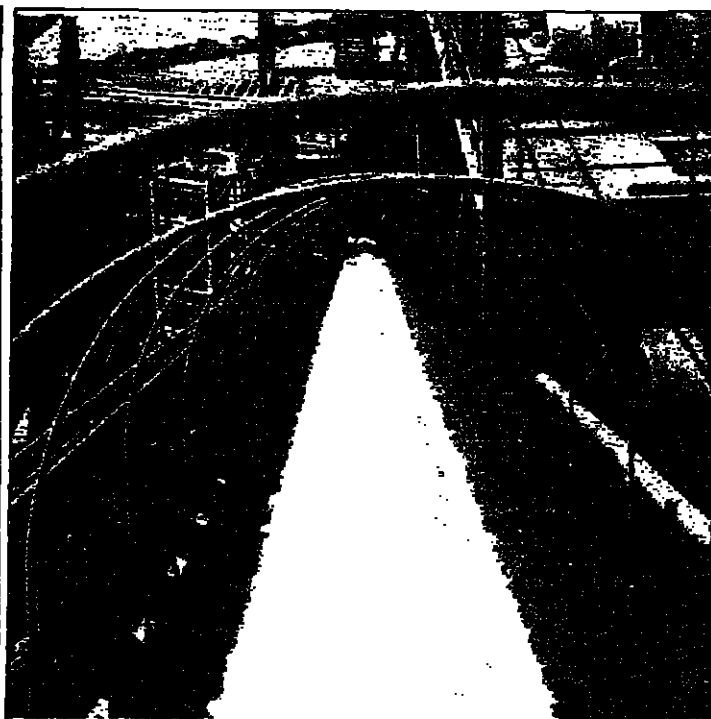
Another befitting comment has come from a leading Indian commentator, Krishna Chaitanya, who wrote in the Times of India: "The deep and shared interest in exploring the capacities of expression of this grouping of instruments has ensured that the unfolding music's indication of leading and recessive roles which continuously interchange is acceptable."

David Storther of the U.S. paid tribute to the group as "five people endowed with very high standards of musicianship and warm human qualities."

The group arrived here from Syria where it performed five concerts in one week, two of them transmitted on Syrian Television.

Having already performed in several other Asian countries, the group will head home from Amman before going to Greece in May and a Latin American swing through Mexico, Argentina, Cuba and Colombia in September to mark the 10th anniversary of its founding.

The public performance of the group in Amman is scheduled this evening at the Royal Cultural Centre. Earlier in the day the quintet performs for a student audience at the same place.



A scene of the phosphate pebbles after the drying process at the Arab Potash Company (File photo)

## Potash firm studies expansion possibilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has recently signed contracts with a major investment company to conduct detailed feasibility studies on expanding APC plant's production capacity, according to APC Managing Director Ali Ensour.

Ensour said in a statement on Jordan Television that the expansion project will be carried out in two stages, eventually enabling the company to produce 2.25 million tonnes of potash annually by the year 1996.

The APC plants, located near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, last year produced 1.25 million tonnes of potash which earned the company \$127 million, compared to 1.3 million tonnes which brought a revenue of \$120 million in 1988, Ensour said.

Ensour said that the company, established in 1982, has been able to pay back debts and boost its earnings and profits by increasing potash sales, which accounts for

about a fifth of the country's exports.

Jordan, which has a 54 per cent stake in the pan-Arab APC, began charging fees of JD 3 a tonne last April, but the debt-laden company remains exempt from tax, which is bound to help it make further profits.

Ensour said he expected world potash prices, now at the rate of about \$98 a tonne, to remain firm.

Ensour said that the government has recently set up a ministerial-level committee to study the prospect of establishing new potash-based industries. Such projects, he said, were expected to boost the company's income of foreign currency and open the door for further employment of Jordanian workers.

Other APC shareholders include the Arab Mining Company, with 25 per cent, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank, holding the rest of the shares.

## Ireland marks national day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Every year on March 17, the people of Ireland and all Irish ethnic groups throughout the world, celebrate their national day, St. Patrick's Day. On the occasion, the honorary consul in Jordan, Mr. Salim Saad, issued a statement in which he lauded Irish ties with Jordan and the Arab World. Following are major excerpts from his statement:

Ireland has long standing and friendly ties with Jordan. Ireland's contacts with Jordan have increased considerably during the past few years. Through its membership in the European Community and activity at the United Nations, Ireland has played part in the efforts to assist in finding solutions to the Middle East problem.

Ireland believes that a just and lasting solution of this conflict must include the rights of all states in the area and the implementation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with the option of setting up an independent Palestinian state.

Irish exports are best known in Jordan for consumer items and foodstuffs. Irish Kerrygold butter, ghee, milk, meats, clothing, veterinary products, pharmaceutical products, manufactured in Ireland, are well established.

An increasing number of high technology and data processing software have been introduced with a steady flow of exports recorded during the last couple of years.

Cultural and educational relations between Ireland and Jordan were developed to their utmost during 1988/1989. A number of Jordanian civil servants and high school instructors from the Jordan Ministry of Education have attended courses in different fields of vocational training. The courses were funded by the Irish government and the EC. These projects provided a model for industrial/vocational training for Jordan. During 1988/1989, 43 Jordanian instructors were trained by HEDCO. HEDCO was also awarded a major project worth one million ECU to assist Bethlehem University. Financial support for the project comes principally from the EC with co-financing from the Irish government. The project aims at strengthening Bethlehem University as an institution of higher learning in the service of the Palestinian community.

On the occasion, there will be an Irish mass at Mount Nebo Shrine in Madaba followed by a reception at the Mount Nebo resthouse from 18:00 - 20:00 hours.

## Clarification

AMMAN (J.T.) — In reference to two stories headlined "Jordan stresses interest in promoting international links" published in the Jordan Times March 13 and another headlined "Regional IBS meeting open" published in the March 15-16 issue, we received the following clarification, which is reprinted in full:

The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) is a non-governmental organisation, based in Geneva.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an "international" educational system. The IB programme is a two-year course of study at the pre-university level. It therefore covers only the last two years of school, leading to a diploma which is a credential for university admission.

The IB is taught in more than 400 schools in around 60 countries all over the world. There are 13 schools in Arab countries that have adopted the IB system, including the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS) in Jordan. These schools are independent of the IBO and although they may offer the IB programme, they do not necessarily offer it as the only course of study. For example, the ABS offers both the IB and the

Jordanian Tawjihi programme, and students at the ABS choose the programme they wish to study and follow the courses leading to either the IB diploma or the Tawjihi certificate.

The Jordanian Ministry of Education held a conference on the IB (as a system of education) March 12 and 13, 1990. The ministry invited IBO representatives as well as representatives of ministries of education in Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Egypt to this conference which was held under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath.

While Jordan is a member of the Standing Conference of Governments (SCG) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath is a member of the Council of Foundation of the IBO on the one hand and is the chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Amman Baccalaureate School on the other.

The IBO is currently holding its Middle East regional teachers workshops at the ABS. Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath officially opened the workshops at the ABS March 14, 1990.

## Israel government collapse only a stalling tactic for settling Soviet Jews — Arar

AMMAN (Petra) — Recent developments on the Israeli political scene which led to the downfall of the Israeli government are nothing but an attempt to gain time for Israel to absorb more immigrants and avoid any pressure from other countries to stop the process of settling Jews on Arab land, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar said Friday.

"There is no real difference between Likud and Labour, the two political parties in the Israeli coalition government, they are two faces of the same coin," Arar said upon returning here from a meeting in Cairo for the African Parliament Union.

"The collapse of the Israeli coalition government can only give Israelis further time for consultations and a chance to absorb more settlers," Arar added. Arar said he was pessimistic about the turn of events in Israel because the decision-makers in the Jewish state are not genuinely interested in the establishment of peace in the region.

Referring to the United States, he said, "U.S. government officials have voiced only slight criticism of Israel's actions but soon afterwards declared major arms sales to Israel." "In the light of these statements no American criticism of Israel's actions can have any value or meaning, he

added. Referring to the outcome of the meetings in Cairo, Arar said that important questions like the migration of Jews to Palestine were discussed and the conference issued a statement condemning the emigration of Jews which entails grave dangers for the Arab World. The Cairo meeting demanded that international organisations to stop Israel's atrocities and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement while in Cairo, Arar said that the coming weeks will witness the announcement of a special committee entrusted with the task of formulating the projected national



Suleiman Arar

charter. "The charter, which will be prepared by a group representing all political groups in the Kingdom, is expected to provide a wide basis for political action and pave the way for political parties to emerge in the country," Arar said.

## WAJ begins searching for water in southern regions

TAFILEH (J.T.) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has begun exploring for new water sources in the drought stricken Tafleeh region, in southern Jordan.

A WAJ spokesman here said the local Al Harir artesian well which supplies water to the governorate, "is at a dangerously low level and will not be able to supply more than 300 cubic metres daily in the coming summer months due to the poor rainfall this winter season."

The WAJ decision was in line

with government plans to find ways of assisting the southern region, Tafleeh, Maan and Karak, which was badly affected by the drought. The government has set up a ministerial committee which is arranging for interest-free loans to the farmers through the Agricultural Credit Corporation and making available water supplies for livestock and domestic use. At least JD 3 million has been allocated for the relief programme in the south, according to government officials involved in the projects.

According to Hammad Khreisha, director of the WAJ department in Tafleeh, the Harir well which provides water to the Tafleeh region used to pump up to 200,000 cubic metres daily. "At present it can only supply up to 800 cubic metres daily and this is expected to drop to 300 cubic metres in the summer," he said.

WAJ will now exploit the reserve well at Zibdeh and Abour and continue to search for new artesian wells, Khreisha said. He added that plans were set for a water distribution programme.

## Ministry, supply merchants locked in row over prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The question of food supply prices in the country surfaced once again with an open dispute between the Ministry of Supply and the Jordanian Supply Merchants Association (JSMA).

Association President Elia Naqul said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that if the government insists on fixing merchants' profit margins 10 per cent, down from 15 per cent, nearly 90 per cent of merchants will stop importing food supplies because then there

would be no point of maintaining their businesses.

Naqul said the present profit margin of 15 per cent was barely sufficient to cover the importer's expenses for refrigeration storage, bank charges, income tax and customs fees.

He suggested that the government announce a fixed policy for pricing food supplies in order to avoid the creation of a black market. "A slight increase in prices are far better than having a marketing without food supplies," Naqul said.

He said the cost of imported supplies increased by nearly 90 per cent since March 1989 mostly due to the devaluation of the dinar, the increase in government taxes and customs fees, and the rise in the cost of commodities in the exporter countries. He said a government decision to reduce customs fees would help reduce prices.

Ministry of Supply Secretary-General Radi Ibrahim said that ministry was committed to helping lower income groups,

## Jordan, N. Yemeni committee meets

SANAA (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-North Yemeni higher committee is expected to open a meeting here Saturday under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani to discuss joint projects and further steps towards integration.

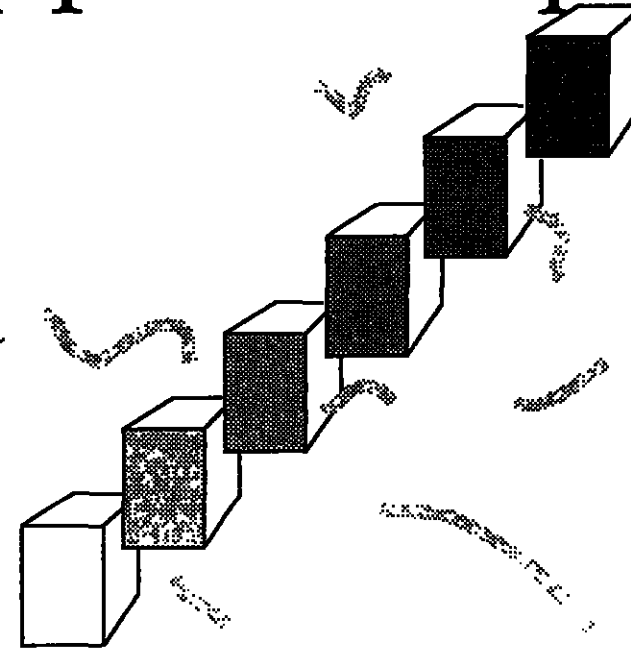
A special committee grouping officials from the two countries started preparing for the higher committee meeting here Thursday and discussed several agreements, programmes and proposed plans which will be tackled by the higher committee in its two-day meeting.

Jordanian official said that the two sides will conclude agreements in trade, public works, electricity, education, culture, health, agriculture and tourism.

A working paper on cooperation in these fields, the official said, was submitted by the North Yemeni side and approved by the preparatory committee.

The meeting in Sanaa will be the second of the higher committee which held its first meeting in Amman.

## Apple Computer



# expo 90

### Setting Higher Standards

The rapid evolution in our daily business, demands successful companies to adapt to those changes, by reviewing their strategies, organization, and developing their information systems. Apple Computer fulfills your expectations by providing advanced and diverse total solutions, which help you in reaching those higher standards. You are invited to experience Macintosh technology at:

### Apple Expo 90

Amman Marriott, March 20 to 22  
from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

# IDEAL

Ideal Systems Co., (W.L.L.)  
24 Abdel Hameed Sharaf St, Shmeisani  
P.O. Box 182756 Amman - Jordan  
Tel: (962-6) 676175, 676176  
Tlx: 21007 IDEAL JO  
Fax: (962-6) 672170



## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabulsi at the Housing Bank Complex.
- \* Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- \* Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Hisham Dghain at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Photographic exhibition "The Soviet Village on the Path of Perestroika" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian artist Shaker Al Jarrah at Alha Art Gallery.
- \* Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### THEATRE

- \* Children's Arabic play entitled "Fables From My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- \* Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Intifada Between the Political and the Religious" by Amna Diah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- \* The 1990 American film festival of fantasy and comedy features "AB OF ME" at the Philadelphia Theatre — 8:00 p.m.
- \* German video entitled "Tarot" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
 Founded 1975  
 Jordan Times مؤسسة جردان للصحافة والاعلام

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
 MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
 MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
 GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
 Jordan Times advertising department.

## Deadly negligence

THE drowning of a man and his ten-year-old nephew in the Dead Sea last week underscores the urgency of providing Jordanian beaches with life-saving equipment and applying certain procedures in order to avoid incidents of this sort. Friday's deaths need not have happened had the authorities concerned paid enough attention to past warnings and the persistent likelihood that such tragedies might occur at any time. Negligence on the part of all those connected with the Dead Sea resort area, under whose nose the deaths occurred, must not be brushed under the carpet. To begin with, there are always legal implications to every act of negligence which needs to be investigated and pursued. Secondly there is also a moral implication in not exercising a sufficient degree of care and concern over the lives of swimmers and users of Jordan's beaches whether in the Dead Sea area or in Aqaba. There is no way Jordan can develop its tourism industry without a parallel concern about the lives of tourists, be they local or foreign. How and why the limited Jordanian beaches are left without protection is an issue that warrants a thorough examination and scrutiny.

What exacerbates the situation even more is also the untold stories about the repeated brushes with death mostly in Aqaba beaches where swimmers often rub shoulders with speed boats cruising the limited beach area and even with divers carrying spears and other potentially dangerous equipment sometimes. There is hardly a beach front in Jordan with towers serviced with life-saving teams to keep an eye on even children swimmers. Swimmers not only dip in the waters at their own risk, they are not even warned in advance about their risky adventures. Jordan happens to be blessed with beautiful seas and beach fronts that attract tourists from far away countries. They deserve a much better care than had been provided them thus far. The authorities in charge of promoting and developing our touristic attractions are duty bound to exercise more care and attention about many matters that are taken for granted elsewhere such as life saving measures and emergency clinics equipped with paramedics at least. In this vein it is upsetting and disturbing that none of the members of the Parliament has seen fit and proper to raise such subjects on the floor of the Parliament. Perhaps now and in the aftermath of the Friday tragedy, our parliamentarians would take the initiative to address such mundane yet very important matters in order to ensure appropriate actions against similar accidents in the future.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday challenged the Soviet Union to prove its credibility in its dealings with the Middle East issue and to back its words with deeds with regard to stemming Israel's attempts to settle Soviet immigrants in occupied Palestinian land. The paper said that words by President Gorbachev and promises by Soviet officials are not enough, and the Arabs are awaiting real and practical steps to put an end to Israel's arrogance. The paper voiced support for Gorbachev's statement before parliament in Moscow that his country was determined to play a leading role in settling the Middle East conflict, and said this is the first step which Moscow can take in a long process to bring about peace to the Arab region. We are awaiting Moscow's step of ending all emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel until the Jewish state conforms to international law and implements U.N. Security Council resolutions and recognises the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland, said the paper. Moscow, the paper added, can regard Israel's insistence on settling the immigrants on Arab lands occupied since 1967 as a pretext to stop the migration of Jews because this is the way to deal with the Zionists who are showing total disregard to Arab rights. We are awaiting such step which is the best proof of Moscow's credibility which, in turn, can rebuild Soviet-Arab relations on a firm foundation of friendship and mutual interest in world peace, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackled the question of the national charter, which provides an umbrella for all political activity should it acquire public support. Salah Abdul Samad says that various political groups in Jordan have been active in trying to explain the real power behind this charter and are trying to give various interpretations for its terms of reference. The writer notes that the government can by no means impose the national charter on the people who will have the right to accept it or reject it. Neither can rejection be considered as a criminal act on the part of any citizen although those who will take part in formulating the charter will represent various schools of thought and different ideologies, Abdul Samad adds. He notes also that the Jordanian constitution has the upper hand should therefore serve as the supreme source for all legislations. The writer says the people's will should be respected at all costs whether they approve or disapprove of the national charter, because such respect can only manifest the real face of democracy in the country.

Al Dussar daily on Friday discussed the present media campaign in the West against Iraq for the execution of the Israeli-British spy describing it as hostile to the whole Arab Nation. The paper noted that the Western media are hinting that economic sanctions could be imposed on Iraq for executing the Israeli spy, which demonstrates open hostility towards the Arab people who are trying to defend their interests and protect their security. As we watch with astonishment this hostile campaign being launched against Iraq and the Arabs, we are also stupefied to see Western governments condoning Israel's atrocities in the occupied territories and its daily practice of slaughtering innocent children and women, the paper said. How can the Europeans defend an Israeli spy proved guilty after he confessed his crimes and remain silent in the face of the daily executions of Palestinian people, asked the paper. The paper said the Arab people can only hope that this hostile campaign against Iraq will stop immediately because it can only damage Arab-European relations. It said the Arab people can only voice their total support and solidarity with the Iraqi people in their continued endeavour to defend their security and pan-Arab interests.

## Can we hear the distant thunder?

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THREE weeks ago, some young Muslim militants shouted down a cabinet minister, and forced him to cut short his regular Friday sermon in Amman. A few days ago, a senior official faced something similar when he delivered a talk about Jordan's parliament in future and how democracy should operate in this country.

Those two incidents are indicative of how strong the new Muslim militants have become. Those new groups are not "Ikhwan", or Muslim Brothers. They form various factions which are frequent rivals. They carry different names like "Islamic Jihad - Holy War" or "Al Da'wa - The Call" or "Al Takfir Wal Hijra - Repentance and Flight" or "Hizb Altahrir Al Islami - Islamic Liberation Party". It is to be admitted that the success of "Islamic Jihad" in Gaza during the last two years, and the political repercussions of Hamas and the intifada, have given the militant groups in Jordan strength, encouragement, as well as a badly needed hope.

But a distinction should be made between the "Ikhwan" and those militant groups. The former have been a part of the Jordanian political scene since 1946 whereas the latter started to emerge in the 1980's when the Egyptian violence cloned them here. Both groups derive spiritual and ideological guidance from the Koran, Sunna and the early days of Islam. Both agree that there is no distinction between religion and politics, that the Islamic political system should be applied in legislation; that Islam, the word of Allah, should rule Jordan and the Muslim world. Both groups share a certain revulsion against Western modern behaviour as well as a desire to return to traditional social values. Both regard Israel as the main enemy. Both see no conflict between Islam and pan-Arabism - excluding the Islamic Liberation Party. Last week the "Ikhwan" announced their acceptance of a pluralistic political system within which they are prepared to operate. They condemn violence against Muslims. They

believe in active proselytisation. Their performance in the parliament revealed their moderation and rationality. Their stand against the riots of April 1989 crowned their very special strategic alliance with the leadership. Their MP's vote of confidence in favour of Prime Minister Badran two months ago bought everybody a badly needed time.

In contrast, the militants are aggressive and they do not shy away from conspiratorial means to reach their ends including violence or attempted coup-d'etat. There was more than one militant got fed up with the mere verbal Da'wa to Islam and crossed over the river in search of martyrdom. One of them was Nasser Al Bayedh, the Jordanian soldier who managed to shoot two Israeli officers and to wound two more on 29th January 1986. He was hailed as the (Egyptian) Salman Khater of Jordan. His father was sur-

prised to see the thousands of Jordanians, who poured to express their admiration for the heroic act of his son - Nasser Al Bayedh.

The young militants point an accusing finger at the "Ikhwan" for their political stands with the regime. They criticise the "Ikhwan's" running of Islamic banks, hospitals and schools. The young militants operate underground in the refugee camps where their cells do not exceed four or five to evade the attention of the Mukhabarat.

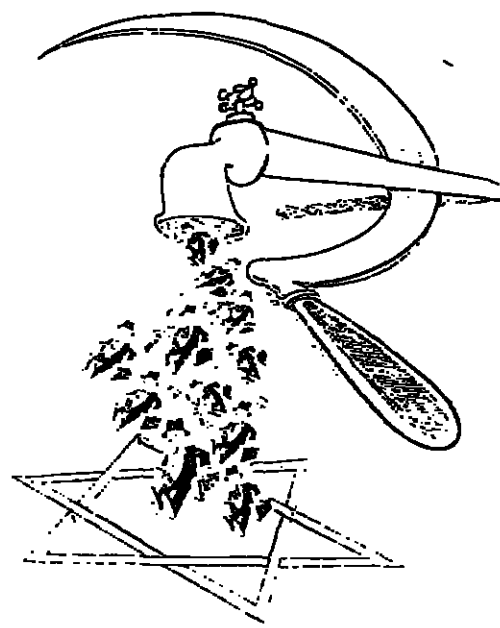
The young militants are well organised. They have well-printed pamphlets distributed regularly at university campuses. A monthly newsletter carries their analyses of political developments in Jordan. They consider the resumption of parliamentary life here as a diversionary tactic to silence any talk about high-level corruption. Some of the militants' pamphlets expressed anger regarding the "Tornado" arms deal. So far some of them consider a government salary as "unclean". Therefore, they

would prefer - though well-qualified - to do any manual work or business rather than accept a teacher's job in a government school. Some of the young militants go so far as to regard null and void any prayer in a mosque behind an "Imam" paid by the government.

The Jordanian militants draw their inspiration from two Egyptian fundamentalists: Sheikh Hafez Salama and Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman. It is believed that much of the financial aid to the young Muslim militants comes from their supporters in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. Those supporters are individuals, and not governments.

But one question has to be asked, who would win in the end: the "Ikhwan" or the militants? All indications point to one fact, that the answer depends on the Jordanian government. The "Ikhwan" with their big bloc in the parliament can resist the challenges of the militants as long as they can show certain influence on Jordan's policy. When the "Ikhwan" show more willingness to the Sharia, they can remain the dominant force in Jordan. Their political tactic is different from the militants'. Their uneasy pact with the government has to continue. Higher echelons of power here have to watch where to draw the line. In case of a break up between the "Ikhwan" and the government, there will never be only one loser. It is to the advantage of all sides to maintain this relationship however fragile it may be. It is noteworthy to the "Ikhwan's" version of national charter "Mithaq" announced on the 6th of March, 1990. They officially announced that Jordan's internal security is a holy duty which should be kept, defended and maintained at whatever cost. This line of thought runs diametrically opposite to the young militants' line and their school as preachers of the bullet.

At the moment, the militants' thunder is distant, but we should never be deaf to the distant thunder.



## Emigrating Soviet Jews say they have no choice

By Emil Varadi  
 Reuter

BUDAPEST — "At the end you find yourself sitting on top of your luggage in an empty room. You know you have cut all your old ties and a whole new life lies ahead," said 27-year-old Marina Prykhodina.

"But inside you are broken. This is what we call the emigrant syndrome."

Marina, a speech therapist from Moscow, her husband Oscar Trediya, 29, her mother Nina, 51, and two-year-old daughter Nicole are among the thousands of Soviet Jews who have decided to leave the Soviet Union.

Interviewed during a stopover at Budapest, Marina said that given the choice they would have preferred a Western European country or the United States.

About two million Jews live in the Soviet Union and up to 100,000 of them are expected to emigrate to Israel this year — most via Budapest.

They arrive in the Hungarian capital on trains or by air carrying "everything except the furniture" and wait a day or two to board a flight for Tel Aviv.

"Life became terrible in Moscow. In the shops there was nothing but the lamps shining into empty deep freezers," Marina complained.

"I did not want my child to grow up in a country where she was threatened by anti-Semitism," she said, adding that they even feared physical violence.

She said she also feared that her child might catch AIDS, as about 80 children had already contracted the deadly disease from shared needles in Soviet clinics.

And despite President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, Marina has no confidence in his promises.

"Last but not least, there is no future in the Soviet Union, neither in a political, economic, nor cultural sense," she said.

"I'm young. I want to live a

normal life. I want to see the world. I want my mother and child to have a normal life. I want to earn a proper salary for my work," she exclaimed.

Oscar, who performed the official paperwork for the family, said they had to fill in forms listing their places of work 15 years back and had to provide data on their relatives.

All Soviet citizens who want to emigrate must produce written consent from their parents.

The discharge from Soviet citizenship cost Marina's family 700 rubles (\$1,100) per person. Air tickets to Tel Aviv cost 729 rubles (\$1,145) each.

"Air tickets were practically unavailable as flights from Moscow to Budapest are booked solid 18 months ahead. But a friend helped us," said Oscar.

The family left behind a tiny flat in a typical concrete block in northern Moscow. It consisted of a small room, a miniature kitchen and a narrow bathroom.

Oscar's relatives live in Haifa, where the new arrivals, like other immigrants, expect to be given Hebrew lessons for six months paid for by the immigration ministry.

Marina admits she may have problems finding work as a speech therapist but Oscar, a telecommunications specialist, has a better chance of finding similar work.

Back in the Soviet Union, fearing that security-conscious Soviet authorities might stop him leaving, Oscar quit his post at a state telecommunications company and took a less sensitive job a year before filing emigration papers.

He says he would not like to live in the occupied territories, where Palestinians are revolting against Israeli occupation.

"I would have the feeling that I was not living in my own country, but on alien territory," Oscar said.

But asked if they would go back to the Soviet Union if they did not like life in Israel, they both answered without hesitation:

"No, never."

## Why fight a war that is over?

The following article by Professor Ghassan Salameh appeared in the London-based Arabic daily, Al Hayat, on Feb. 2.

ANYONE watching Afghanistan can be excused for concluding that the Arabs are still fighting a war that has ended.

Arab regimes, or some at least, joined the Afghan war ostensibly in defence of a Muslim country invaded by foreigners, an Islamic society on which an atheist system was imposed, and a geographical entity whose occupation brought Soviet power closer to the warm waters of the Gulf. For these religious, political and strategic reasons, most Arab regimes denounced the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and some provided immense military, financial and diplomatic aid to various mujahideen groups, while sending thousands of "volunteers" to join the fight against the Russians.

Although this war is over, some Arabs are still waging it. The Afghan war changed fundamentally some time ago, but some Arab governments still act as if it did not, as though they are fighting the same battle in 1990 that they were in 1980.

And as what Pravda has called the "internal Afghanistan" — meaning Azerbaijan — erupted, the primitive and incorrect notion harboured by some Arab regimes about the inherent wickedness of the Soviet Union seems to have become stronger. Those who joined the war in Afghanistan, and devoted massive political and

economic resources to it, are clearly liable to find themselves facing the prospect of squandering all those efforts, as circumstances in Afghanistan change and others begin reaping the rewards of the Arab involvement on the side of mujahideen.

At the risk of over-simplifying, one can say that the fight against the Soviets has been replaced by a vicious Lebanese-style war. It is a great danger for these Arabs to keep treating the Afghan question as a matter of mujahideen versus Moscow. It has become a civil war, if not entirely, then for the most part.

**"It is a great danger for Arabs to keep treating the Afghan question as a matter of Mujahideen versus Moscow. It has become a civil war, if not entirely, then for the most part."**

The first consideration must be the Peshawar-based interim government which most Arab regim-

es recognise as the sole representative of the Afghan people. In reality, this government has from the outset represented Pakistani interests much more than it has the various sectors of the Afghan population. Secondly, one must consider the aims and capabilities of this government. Those who think their only aim is to expel the Najibullah government from Kabul, or that they are capable of doing so if it was, must think again...

In practice, because they are the intermediaries for arms and money, because their popular base inside the country is phoney, because they are the puppets of their host state to a certain extent, the "leaders" in Peshawar are rivals and adversaries... as in Lebanon, the transformation of these warlords into "ministers" has led to understandings between them at the expense of the common good, while their internecine wars rage in the streets. They are also from the Sunni sect, while the Shi'ite groups operate out of Iran. The sectarian division is extremely sharp. The Peshawar "government" accuses "its Shi'ite citizens" of concluding a deal with the Russians and Najibullah, finalised when Rafsanjani visited Moscow last year, under which Iran and the USSR and their respective representatives — the Iran-based Afghan rebels and the Najibullah government — would cooperate to prevent the Peshawar government from taking power. Alliances of

opposites, or rather a succession of ever-shifting opportunist alliances, is — we know from Lebanon — a characteristic of civil wars, not wars of liberation...

Pakistani and Arab backing for the Hekmatyar and Sayyaf factions has already begun producing a reaction among various tribal groups in the country, which have started complaining about "excessive Arab interference" in internal Afghan affairs. This threatens to jeopardise Arab interests, unless the Arab governments concerned seriously reconsider this war and their role in it...

The Arab governments involved have an alternative. They can start a serious dialogue with Moscow about the best solution to the Afghan problems, without being constrained by past policies or rigid alliances. They must draw a clearer distinction between Arab interests and those of Pakistan on the one hand, and the policies of the various factions on the other. Arab interests are also distinct — and this must be emphasised with even more clarity — from those of the United States. The Americans behave according to the rules of the cold war, which they believe may stop at some stage, but at least they should be — about ending the Afghan war as soon as possible. At present, the only losers in the continuation of the conflict are the unfortunate Afghan people.

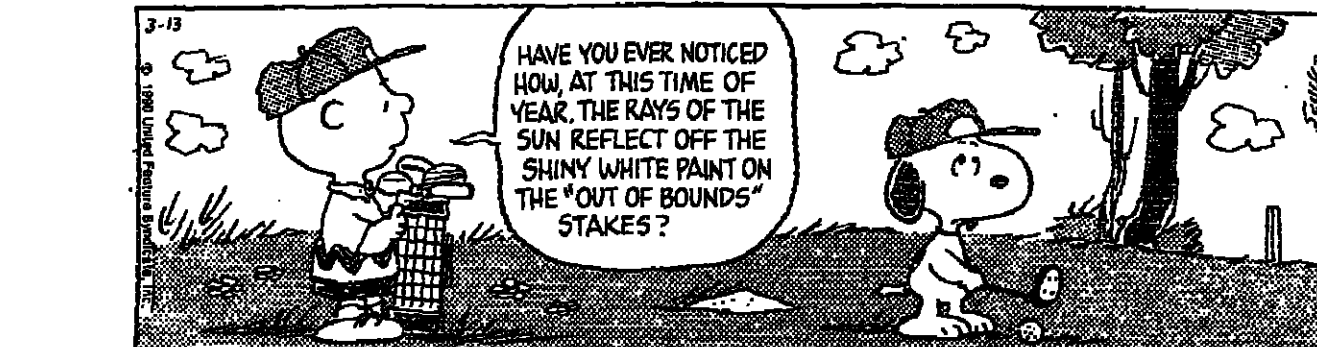
## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp

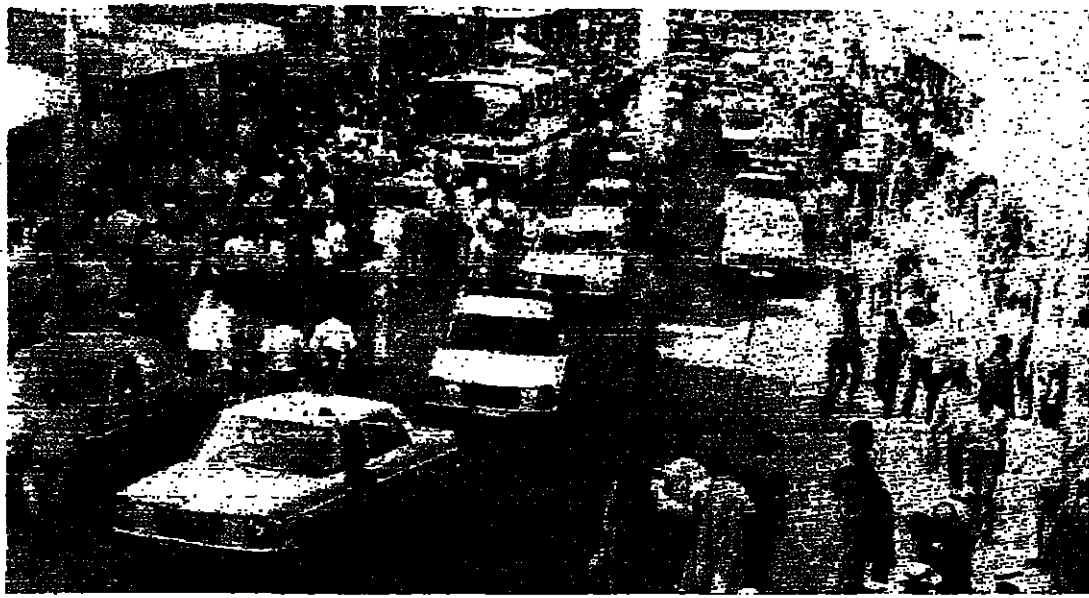


## Peanuts





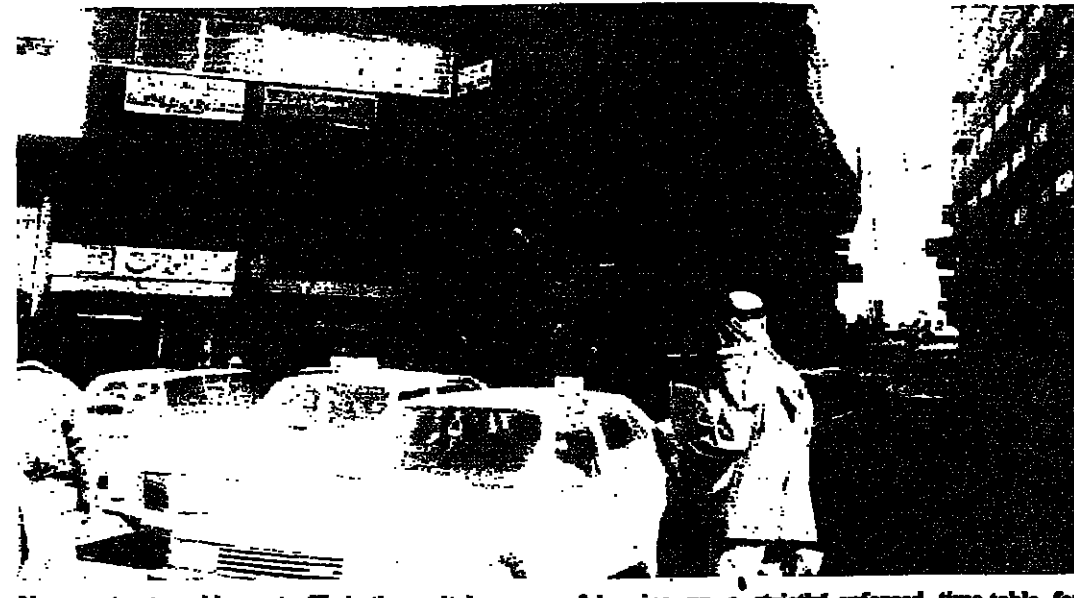
# Public transport in Jordan — brickbats and bouquets



Soaring prices have pushed private cars beyond the reach of many in Jordan, and the obvious choice is a taxi but not without its own problems (File photo).

## Buses — a story of clogged gears

PUBLIC transportation is a problem discussed at length at homes, at work and at meeting places among all generations, particularly by those who are not fortunate enough to own a vehicle. In the main, people criticise the authorities for failing to establish a reliable and efficient public transport system that could serve the public at large. The authorities in turn plead inability to come up with overnight solutions to the problem, whether in the availability of vehicles or in time-tables or routes. However, the authorities affirm that they are indeed working on the problem, but cannot say when definite solutions will materialise, **Saeeda Khamis** reports:



Narrow streets and heavy traffic in the capital are cited by the authorities as the main obstacle in drawing up a strictly enforced time-table for public transport buses (Photo by Saeeda Khamis)

## Taxis — in need of a break

AS IN any other capital, taxis have become an essential part of life in Amman. But, the problems encountered by taxi users are many, ranging from difficult street addresses and unclear vehicles to lack of exact change. **Nurmesan Murad** reports:

AMMAN — With the skyrocketing prices of cars, many Jordanians have turned to the relatively cheaper means of public transportation, taxis, to travel within the capital and other cities in the Kingdom. Using taxis, however, is not without its problems for many of those who use them.

One of the most pressing problems faced by taxi users in Amman is that they have to give the driver route directions to their destination, rather than the driver knowing how to get there.

"When I first came to Amman, I would get into a taxi and give the driver an address. Most of the time he didn't know how to get me there so I would get out and try another taxi," said a working woman.

In many cities of the world, a total stranger has only to carry an address and be home safe. In England, in particular, drivers take intensive courses for two years before they are licensed as taxi drivers.

The president of the association of owners of public transportation cars, Abdullah Al Qaisi, told the Jordan Times that taxi drivers in Jordan have only to pass a regular driving test.

Although Qaisi understands the need to train taxi drivers in the names and directions of streets in the capital, he maintains that this training can only be done if the Licensing Department at the Traffic Department makes it a prerequisite.

Qaisi suggested that books which carry maps of the different parts of the capital should be given to would-be taxi drivers to study and a test should be conducted before a driver is licensed. But, he added, "it would be very difficult for the drivers who make their livelihood out of this job now."

Although many people who ride taxis realise that the drivers almost always need directions from the passenger "we cannot blame them because even we do not know the names of the streets we are living in."

Most of the capital's streets do have names which were chosen carefully by the Greater Amman Municipality "but they are difficult

tained.

### 'Reckless driving'

Complaints about "irresponsible" driving of taxi drivers is an issue which not only bothers their passengers but very often drivers of others cars on the streets.

"I took down the number of a taxi today and I am going to send a letter to the traffic department against him," said an angry private car driver. "He almost rushed me off the road only to pass a red light; it was unbelievable," he said.

A frequent user of taxis maintained that taxi drivers "do not abide by the minimum rules of driving."

"I count my blessings every time I come out of a taxi ride safe," he added.

### 'Change'

Another problem is of exact change. Many people complain that taxi drivers do not carry enough change. Some even suggest that some drivers make it a ploy to get away with more than the actual fare.

As a rule, most drivers take the nearest 50-fils equivalent of the meter reading. For instance, if the meter says 510 fils, it goes without saying that the driver takes 550 fils.

"Of course, there are also others who will only take 500 fils," observed a seasoned taxi user.

But not having the exact change could be really frustrating at times when a passenger is pressed for time and he has to go around trying to change his JD 5 note.

One way to address this problem, says a driver, is that the passenger should inform the driver that he or she is carrying a "big note."

"This will help us stop at a gas station or shop to get change if we do not have enough on us," he said.

Although taxi drivers come under heavy criticism over many issues, one of the heaviest critics added a good word in their favour.

"To their credit, as God is witness, they are honest. Most of them return valuables left in their cars to their owners or hand them over to police stations," he said.

"This is definitely the best trait in them."

IT'S 11.00 a.m. on a cold Wednesday morning. A red and white bus screeches to a halt at a Wadi Seer bus stop. No, it is not one, there are at least two others behind, with numbers indicating that all are on the same route. That's not enough, there are several service taxis trailing behind them. Everyone is happy; the buses have come after a wait of almost an hour.

But, they are all overcrowded, which doesn't actually stop the impatient crowd from shoving each other and squeezing themselves into the vehicles, before the driver closes the door. They force their way through the crowd, trying to get the most comfortable position and settle for the ride to downtown.

"I would love to take the bus to work on time as it is the case in many developed countries," says Mohammad Smadi, who, in his capacity as general secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, is one of Jordan's key men to find a solution to the problems plaguing public transportation. However, Smadi admits, "the problem is not simple; it's not just adjusting time-tables or routes. It's a problem which warrants a comprehensive approach... starting with collection and processing of actual information on the requirements of the public."

At present, the Ministry of Transportation is in the first phase of the process, Smadi told the Jordan Times. It is collecting all necessary information related to key routes, number of expected passengers at given times, frequency of buses, flow of traffic etc. and feeding this information into computers. This process is expected to be completed in six months, according to Smadi.

However, computerising information, though essential, could only solve a minor part of the problem. Proper time schedules, for instance, are "still a far-away goal which can be almost impossible to achieve in the inside routes of Amman," explains Samir Al Sumna, acting director and deputy director of the transportation department.

"Timing needs priority for passage of buses as well as stops," he says. "The narrowness of almost all routes inside Amman, especially downtown routes, do not permit priority for buses, particularly that the system is centralised; direction of all buses is from and to downtown."

Marwan Al Kheetan, director of the transportation and employment department at the ministry, also points out to the complexity of this problem. "It would be better for us if it is possible to apply a strictly enforced time-table inside Amman, but it is practically impossible. There are hundreds of taxis and service taxi drivers who park their cars in place of bus stations downtown. In addition, the area provided for buses is limited and the roads there are narrow," he said.

Proper time-tables can be and are applied outside the capital — Madaba, Zarqa, Baqa and Salt since "there are no traffic problems. The roads do not pose any effective problem," according to Kheetan.

However, the absence of precise timings of buses has resulted in pitting the public on the one hand and the competent authorities on the other.

Two employees in a bank along with others in a bus station downtown complained of the daily overcrowdedness and the insufficiency of buses on their line. "Every day, we wait for at least an hour for a

bus to take us from Jubeiha to downtown," said one of them.

"First of all, we do not know when to expect a bus. Then when one turns up it's full. Sometimes two or three buses come together after an hour of wait," he added. "The situation is no different when we wait downtown to return home. It could be really annoying and frustrating after six hours of hard work at the bank."

"One sometimes gets fed up with the same problem of overcrowdedness and the struggle to get in, whether in rain or in the heat of the sun. Sometime we are forced to take a taxi, but then it is a burden on us, particularly now when the cost of living is on the rise."

Passengers are not the only ones who have complaints; the authorities have their own grievances starting with "abuse of our vehicles by commuters."

Kheetan says that approximately 140,000 people travel on the Public Transport Corporation's 260 buses operating on 91 lines. And the entire system is based on the flow of traffic on each line. Apart from that, Kheetan attributes the major part of the problem basically to lack of cooperation

between the private and the public sectors, and to the "irresponsibility and manipulation" of private sector bus operators.

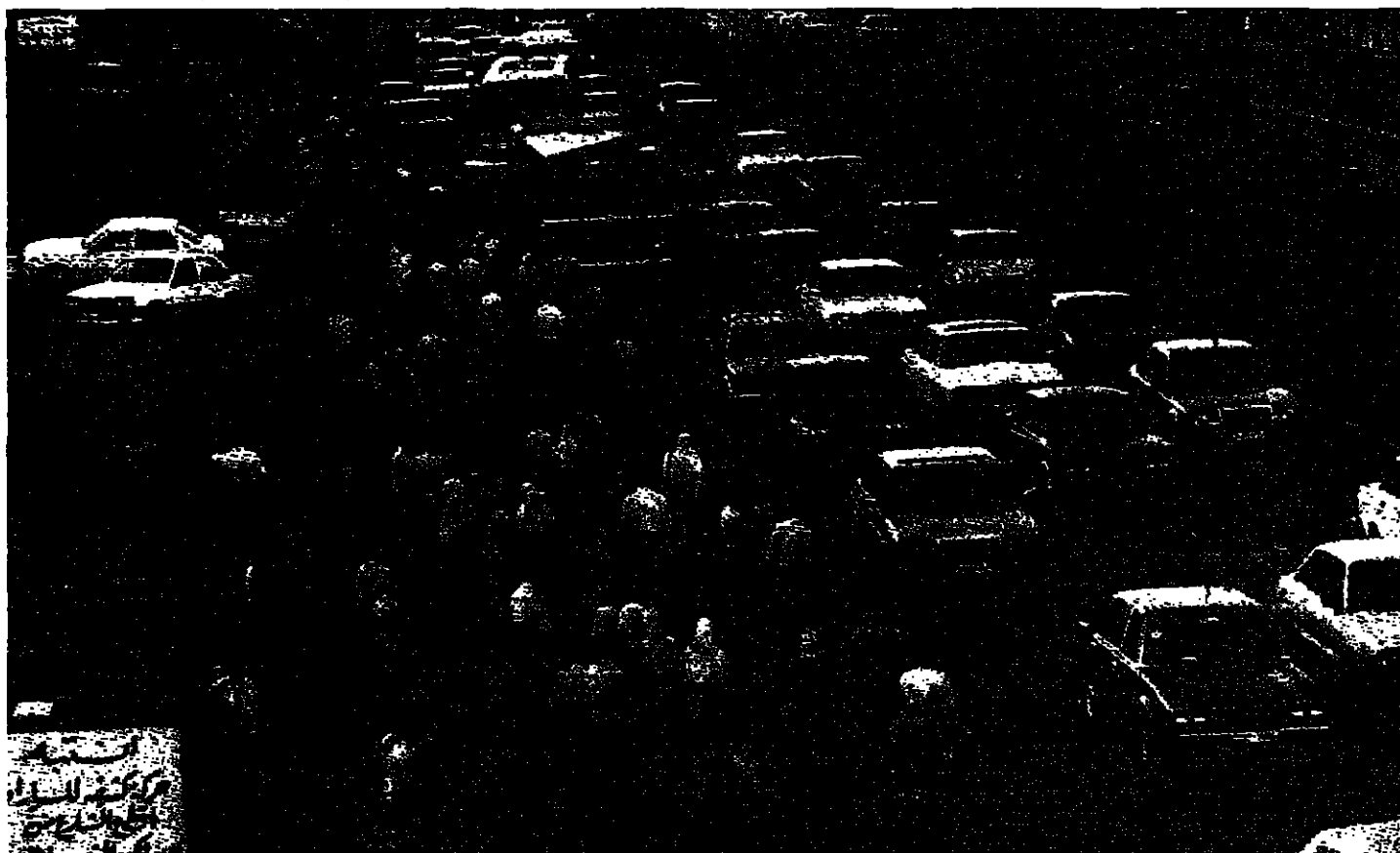
Basically, he says, the number of buses on each line is determined by the estimated flow of daily passengers after taking into consideration the availability of private sector buses on the same route.

"What happens actually," he added, "is that whenever there is an occasion of some sort, like a scholastic trip or a wedding, the buses of the private sector are hired for a whole day, leaving a vacuum and imbalance in the overall daily system."

Accordingly, some of the government buses are moved from one line to another to make up for shortages, and that leaves gaps in the original routes from where they are moved.

"The problem cannot be solved unless the two sectors work out on a plan together; and this takes time for planning and execution," according to Kheetan.

However, when everything goes well between the two sectors, overcrowdedness is still witnessed in many areas.



A patient wait for buses (file photo)

## Peres races

(Continued from page 1)

64, as his successor. Party chairman Ariel Sharon, the 62-year-old leader of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, is widely seen as having little chance of succeeding Shamir so soon after quitting the cabinet last month over the peace moves.

The deciding factor could be the ultra-religious Agudat Israel Party, which abandoned Likud for Labor because Shamir bowed to powerful U.S. Jewish leaders and refused to toughen a law on who could call himself a Jew.

"We vote no-confidence in Shamir," said Rabbi Menachem Porash of Agudat Israel, refusing to ride out support of an alternative Likud leader.

Religious parties, often guided by bearded sages in black coats, are traditional kingmakers in Israeli politics, offering support in return for government cash for their schools and stricter public observance of Jewish law.

A PLO leader commended the Israeli Labour Party for its willingness to talk peace with Palestinians.

Yasser Arafat, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told Reuters the collapse of the Israeli coalition government would force Israel to choose between "intimidation and talks with the PLO."

For all your:

Packing,  
Air Freight Forwarding,  
Customs Clearance,  
Door-to-door Service,  
Ticketing and  
Reservation needs,  
please call:

**AMIN KAWAR & SONS**

Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street  
Shmeisani  
P.O. Box 7806  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel. 604676, 604696

**Saudi Real Estate**  
RENTAL 687821

SALES 687822  
CALL SOHA

**EVERY DAY**

PEOPLE WHO NEED  
CLEANING  
SERVICES

CALL US!  
**Electrohux**  
P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN  
Tel. 604671

**STUDIO HAIG**

Professional Quality in  
1 Hour Service  
Develop your colour film at  
our shop and get:-

• **JUMBO photo**  
size 30% larger  
• **Free enlargement**  
20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays  
Bank. Phone: 604042  
Sweethel tel: 823891

The Regency Palace Hotel  
**AL JALALI**  
Hanna Cuisine  
Rooftop Restaurant  
Nightly  
Oryx Band &  
Oriental Belly-dancer  
Nariman Abboud  
For reservation  
call 688000-15

**EASTERN**

PACKING  
DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING  
AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 370  
TLX: 23 0 23 POB: 815 408  
AMMAN-JORDAN

The First Class Hotel in  
Amman that has a  
Kitchenette in every  
room...!

**DAROTEL**  
داروتيل

Amman - Tel. 668193  
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434  
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO  
Ideal Residence For  
Expatriates and  
Businessmen

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best  
Chinese Restaurant  
in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near  
Ahiyyah Girls School  
Take away is available  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
6:30-Midnight  
Tel. 638968

**慕堂餐廳**  
**MANDARIN**  
Chinese Restaurant

The only typical Chinese  
cuisine in Amman.  
Chinese Flaming pot is available  
Take away available  
Open daily 12:00-15:30  
18:00-23:30  
Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic  
Bridge  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel: 681922

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
Mecca Street, Yarmouk  
Engineers' Housing  
Estate, near Kilo  
Supermarket  
Mongolian Barbecue for  
Lunch Friday only  
Tel: 818214  
Come and taste our  
specialties  
Open daily 12:00-3:30  
p.m.  
6:30-Midnight

**MEXICAN FOOD**

Between  
1st & 2nd  
Circle  
Jabal Amman  
Tel. 654205  
Open For  
LUNCH & DINNER

**Kashmir Restaurant**  
FIRST CLASS INDIAN  
RESTAURANT  
Special Executive Lunches  
Take away service  
available  
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm  
7:30-11:30 pm  
After the Philadelphia Hotel  
Towards 3rd circle  
Tel: 659519 659520

**MOVING?**  
Let Aramex Air Cargo  
take care of the works,  
Door to Door.  
Call the friendly  
professionals on  
660507 or 660508  
**ARAMEX** AIR CARGO

For the best  
for your  
MONEY...  
ADVERTISE  
in the  
**Jordan Times**



## OPEC appears split over higher oil prices

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers preparing for talks in Vienna appeared split Friday on how high to send oil prices in a sellers' market which beckons in the 1990s.

Oil Minister Fawzi Shakhshouki of Libya, a traditional price militant, said he wanted a target of at least \$20.

Iraq also said it preferred prices to be above the present declared target of an average of \$18 for a barrel (42 U.S. gallons) in the spot market.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) tries to control pricing by assigning production quotas to its 13 members so as to throttle supply.

A strong rebound in world demand from the glut of the 1980s has helped lately to raise ruling prices above \$18.

And in a reaction that has angered the OPEC majority, Kuwait, an advocate of low prices as a tactic to accelerate the recovery of demand, has been exceed-

ing its mandated quota. Its minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, who drove to Vienna from Hungary where he was pursuing a sales blitz in Eastern Europe, is a record as saying he felt no obligation to keep to the rules while prices exceeded the agreed target.

Another small and affluent Gulf Arab monarchy, the United Arab Emirates, also calls present price levels "ideal" and has opted out of OPEC's quota system.

Other cash-pinched members with less surplus production capacity will press in Vienna for a halt to the quota-busting.

Their delegates cite a forecast by the OPEC secretariat that demand for oil will slip by some three million barrels daily to 20.8 million in the traditionally weak April-June quarter of the year.

Gulf sources say the Kuwaitis seem in no mood to turn down the taps unless the potential excess supply causes prices to weaken

appreciably. Kuwait has a big worldwide refining system that can make money out of cheap crude.

Several ministers said no decisions on a new price target would be taken in the talks due to start Friday which are officially only a session of the market monitoring committee.

"What we are saying is that the present agreement ought to be adhered to until May," said Iraq's Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi.

OPEC sources said the ministers will try to lay the basis of a deal to be struck at a conference due on May 25 which will set policy for the rest of the year.

The recovery in world oil demand, which saw U.S. imports from OPEC rise 25 per cent in 1989, is expected to resume in the northern summer, the peak motoring season.

Kuwait has argued that OPEC will soon no longer need quotas, which have been employed to defend prices since 1982.

## Arab funds detail needs to bolster Arab economies

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab finance ministers have heard a gloomy report on their economies at their annual meeting.

The head of the five main Arab money and development funds gave their reports to ministers of the 21-nation Arab League at the meeting in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Economic development in Arab states shows that most of our countries are suffering from domestic, and external economic imbalances," UAE minister of state for finance and industry, Ahmad Al Tayar, said in an opening address.

Declining gross national product (GNP), increasing balance of payments deficits and external debts, lower oil earnings, over-reliance on the public sector, and plain bad management had led to the decline, the heads of the five funds said.

The five funds are the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the

Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (AIGC), the Arab Fund for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAID), and Arab Bank for Development in Africa (ABDA).

Osama Jafar Al Faghi, chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based AMF, said Arab Nations' deficits had persisted despite rising deficit-financing loans from the AMF since it was established in 1977.

"As we look to the past decade, we see that it has left clear traces... weak economic growth, worse foreign debts, and domination of the public sector," he said.

"Arabs need intensive efforts to redress the imbalances in their economies that obstruct development. They need to boost savings and upgrade financial and banking systems," he said.

Abdul Latif Hamad, head of the Kuwait-based AFESD, said a drop in Arab oil earnings over the past decade to \$64 billion from \$213 billion, and a drop in

GNP to \$355 billion from \$440 billion over the same period, had been a severe blow.

"This has reflected badly on Arab savings which fell to 15 per cent of GNP from around 30 per cent in the early 1980s," he said.

"This has made Arab Nations incapable of meeting their international financial obligations," he added.

"We must say that if we want to achieve the objectives of our development plans, we should be inclined to change, including changing the structure and management of our economies," he stressed.

The heads of the five funds all announced improved profits, and an increase in loans in 1989, but some complained about outstanding debts.

The ministers are due to announce the formal inception of a new \$300 million Arab trade fund to help boost inter-Arab trade, which is at a very low eight per cent of total Arab trade.

## Tadiran reports \$100m loss

TEL AVIV (R) — Tadiran, Israel's troubled military electronics conglomerate, lost more than \$100 million in 1989, a company

spokesman said Thursday. He said the loss, five times the 1988 figure, was largely due to the cost of closing production

lines and writing off useless stocks. Total sales were \$850 million last year including \$350 million in exports.

Tadiran General Manager Gourion Meltzer told a parliamentary committee Wednesday the firm would soon submit a new recovery programme to its creditors.

Former General Manager Yosef Maayan resigned last week after failing to get more credits from banks or worker support for the recovery plan.

Israeli banks have refused Tadiran a much-needed \$50 million short-term loan, saying a previous recovery plan was not serious. Management was forced to delay payment of salaries.

"The new plan includes a sharp cut in wages, dismissal of workers and asset-selling," Meltzer told the committee.

## Study urges scrapping curbs on Third World textile exports

BRUSSELS (R) — The West is holding up the development of the Third World by limiting imports of textiles and should scrap such bans by the year 2000, a new World Bank study says.

"Tariffs and trade restrictions on textiles cost developing countries about \$8 billion a year," said Carl Hamilton, editor of the study.

Western Europe and North America negotiated the curbs in 1974 to give their textile industries time to adjust to competition from developing countries.

The so-called Multifibre Arrangement was supposed to be temporary, and it is high time to start dismantling it, Hamilton told a news conference to mark publication.

The study was issued to coincide with the last phase of a four-year round of world trade talks involving countries.

The Uruguay Round negotiations, named after the country where they were launched in 1986, are aimed at setting international trading patterns for the 21st century.

They are held under the auspices of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and are due to end in Brussels next December.

Textiles are set to be the most important single item on the agenda for developing countries, contributor Martin Wolf said.

"Textiles are always the historic starting point for industrialisation," he said. Exports of cloth and clothing enable Third World

countries to get up the first rung of the ladder to development, he added.

He proposed a 10-year phasing out of curbs on exports, with guarantees that the process be irreversible.

Hamilton added he was worried the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe might squeeze Third World textile exporters to the European Community within the next decade.

He expected countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to benefit from privileged access to the current 12-nation European Community.

Textile prices in the West could come down as a result, but less developed countries might not gain in the process, he said.

## Vatican expects largest deficit ever in '89

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican said Thursday its projected 1990 deficit would be a record \$86 million and made a pressing appeal to Catholics around the world to help raise more funds.

A statement released after a meeting of the committee of cardinals who oversee the Vatican's finances said it expected income of about \$66.5 million and expenses of \$152.4 million, leaving a deficit of about \$86 million.

This was \$8 million more than its projected deficit for last year. The Holy See's budget covers the church's administration, including its departments for social, religious and diplomatic affairs around the world, its daily news-

paper and radio station. It does not include the budget to run the Vatican City, a sovereign city-state within Rome, or assets of the controversial Vatican bank, which was involved in a major scandal connected with the bankruptcy of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano in 1982.

Although the Holy See's budget has no relation with the Vatican bank, contributions from the faithful dropped for several years after the scandal.

The statement said the Vatican's deficit had grown despite an "unavoidable policy of austerity" carried out by its staff.

It reminded bishops around the world that canon (church) law

obliged them to do as much as possible to help fund the church's central administration.

The cardinals thanked Catholics who had given more in recent years but said they had to make "another particularly pressing appeal so that such collaboration is generously intensified."

The cardinals' statement said the Holy See would try to apply an almost \$9 million surplus from the budget of the Vatican City to the overall church deficit and dip into "Peter's pence," a collection made in Catholic churches around the world for the Pope's use.

Before the Holy See began running large deficits in the 1980s, Peter's pence was tradi-

tionally destined for missions and charitable works. In 1989, Peter's pence amounted to \$48 million and was used to cover that year's deficit.

Later this week a Vatican committee is expected to announce a new director-general for the Vatican bank, which underwent structural changes last year following the Ambrosiano scandal.

The appointment of a non-cleric will formally end the bank's relationship with U.S. Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, its controversial president who was accused by Italian magistrates of being partly responsible for the Ambrosiano crash.

Marcinkus has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 15, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	440.0
Pound Sterling	1079.3	1085.8	Dutch guilder	348.3
Deutsche mark	322.3	324.7	Swedish crown	108.4
Swiss franc	440.4	443.0	Italian lira (for 100)	53.2
French franc	116.1	116.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	189.2

### Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	March 10-14	March 3-7
Daily average	JD 793,077	JD 989,964
Total volume	JD 3,965,384	JD 4,949,818
Total shares	2,574,193	2,099,500
No. of contracts	2,973	3,135

Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,875,295 (47.3%)	JD 2,707,907 (54.7%)
Financial	JD 1,051,772 (26.5%)	JD 1,469,709 (29.6%)
Service	(25.0%)	(13.7%)
Insurance	(1.2%)	(2.0%)

Share price index	136.8	137.3
No. of companies	64	70
Price movement (rise)	10	12
(decline)	42	49
(stable)	12	9

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6210/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1820/30	Canadian dollar
	1.6980/87	Deutsche mark
	1.9125/35	Dutch guilder
	1.5148/55	Swiss franc
	35.25/30	Belgian franc
	5.7375/7425	French franc
	1253/1254	Italian lire
	152.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.1470/1520	Swedish crown
	6.5755/5805	Norwegian crown
	6.5070/5120	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	399.25/399.65	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Share prices were easier in modest trade at the close as selling pressure overwhelmed periodic buying by investment trust funds and other investors. The Nikkei index fell 55.20 to 32,616.44.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed softer in see-saw trading on a widespread belief that interest rates would be raised later in the day. The Hang Seng index fell 6.35 to 2,886.46.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed on reduced volume after selective buying alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times index rose 1.95 to close at 1,570.99.

BOMBAY — Fertiliser, cement and steel stocks gained on hopes of excise relief and price decontrol in the budget due on Monday. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 7.38 points to 686.29 after a two-day slide.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mixed in quiet trading, with investors still cautious before East German elections Sunday. Dealers reported no selling pressure and little buying interest. The DAX index rose 10.33 to 1,889.69.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly firmer, helped by a small rally late in the session. Overall volume was light. The Swiss performance index closed 1.3 higher at 1,002.5.

PARIS — Prices ended down but above the day's lows in a quiet market awaiting the outcome of Sunday's East German elections. The CAC-40 index ended down 5.65 at 1,958.82.

LONDON — Shares were sharply higher in active late trading, with the market responding to positive corporate news. A firm performance by the FTSE futures market also underpinned the rise. At 1643 GMT the FTSE index was up 29.1 at 2,264.0.

NEW YORK — A firm bond market and futures-related buying drove blue chips sharply higher by late-morning. The Dow was up 20 at 2,716.

## Japan's trade surplus may grow

TOKYO (R) — Continued strong imports and weak exports saw Japan's trade surplus narrow for the tenth straight month in February, but many economists say future drops should be less dramatic.

"The best numbers in terms of improvement are probably behind us," said Kenneth Courtis, senior economist at D.B. Capital Markets (Asia).

February's customs-cleared trade surplus fell 31 per cent to an unadjusted \$5 billion from \$7.24 billion a year earlier, the finance ministry has announced.

February's trade surplus decline was less than analysts had predicted, due largely to a smaller-than-expected drop in exports.

Many economists had forecast a drop of three per cent or more in exports, after they fell 3.8 per cent \$18.62 billion in January from \$19.36 billion a year earlier.

But exports in February shrank by just 1.9 per cent to \$21.96 billion from \$22.38 billion a year ago, the fifth consecutive month of shrinkage.

Imports, pushed up by higher oil prices, gained by 11.9 per cent to \$16.95 billion from \$15.5 billion a year ago.

Japan's overall trade surplus fell 89.5 per cent in January, the biggest year-on-year decline since June, 1979.

"(February's trade figure) confirms that the January figures were a complete aberration," said Paul Summerville, the economist at Jardine Fleming Securities' Tokyo branch.

Imports in February increased at their lowest rate since September, Summerville said.

Japan's trade surplus with the United States in February fell 29 per cent to \$2.96 billion from \$4.18 billion a year ago, but due mainly to large decreases in transportation, electrical goods and general machinery exports, analysts said.

They said lower exports stemmed mainly from sluggish U.S. demand, as well as from gradually growing production of Japanese goods in U.S. plants.

Exports to the United States fell 5.9 per cent to \$7.12 billion

from \$7.57 billion a year earlier. "Exports to the U.S. were weaker in those sectors that are a reflection of the weaker U.S. economy," Summerville said.

High oil prices in February, the highest since March, 1986, helped boost Japan's overall import bill. The value of crude-oil imports surged 43.9 per cent to \$2.31 billion.

But many analysts said oil was likely to become less of a factor in enlarging the import side of the trade equation as the effect of an oil import tariff levies in August, 1988, disappears, analysts said.

On the export side, a higher dollar has depressed the value of Japanese exports in recent months. But some analysts believe a pickup in U.S. demand later this year could fuel higher export volumes.

"In general the trend is toward smaller drops (in the trade surplus) and reversal next year," said Jan Vandenberg, an economist at Merrill Lynch Japan.

Some analysts believe the weaker yen is likely to make

Japanese exports more competitive, pushing export volumes higher, by the second or third quarter of this calendar year.

And the stronger dollar, which has gained five per cent against Japanese currency since January, could make U.S. imports more expensive and less competitive, economists said.

At the same time, a slowing in the Japanese economy since January, could make U.S. imports more expensive and less competitive, economists said.

At the same time, a slowing in the Japanese economy later this year could see import demand fall off, Courtis said.

Robust demand in Europe and a weak yen is likely to see Japan's surplus with the EC rise. Japan's surplus with the European Community fell by a slim 0.5 per cent in February to \$1.88 billion from \$1.89 billion.

"We're set for a significant expansion of the trade surplus with Europe in the year ahead," Courtis said.

He estimated such delays cost Swissair 80 million francs (\$52.6 million) last year in extra fuel, flight hours, overnight accommodation, and other charges.

Finance director Peter Nydegger said Swissair planned investments totalling 4.2 billion francs (\$2.8 billion) over the five years from 1990 to 1994.

Company officials declined to give the price for the recently agreed sale of the airline's 17 hotel Swissotel subsidiary to Japan's Aoki Corp, a construction and hotel group.

The airline wants to spend its money instead on cooperation with other airlines.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Getting a right start today largely depends on first deciding what conditions in your life need to be moderated and to study ways to uncover the specific means by which this can be easily accomplished.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pleasure you have been anticipating of a social nature will occur a little later on. Many short trips with attachment can make this a happier day.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Both longtime friends and newcomers can fill your social horizons now. Be sure now to make positive attachment is comfortable at your home.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You will be clever in aiding a good friend with an emotional problem today. Much happiness is yours through quiet romance with music.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day for much social happiness with several good friends. Entertain prosperous friends at your residence today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Men will aid you now in enjoying the social activities that mean the most to you. New interests should be encouraged in association with your attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will have your best of

times with relatives and clinging friends now. An unexpected event will bring more happiness between you and mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Encourage social contact with persons who have different background than your own. Go along with changes that are swiftly taking place at your dwelling.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Cultivate an attractive couple socially to whom you are drawn. Go along with attachment's ideas if you want real happiness.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You will have your best times at group activities at this time. You are the one now to take action for establishing real harmony at your home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You see fine ways to make your home more comfortable and operative. An unusually happy time for you and your mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A warm and magnetic atmosphere should now be in your home. Talk out in an objective manner about all present issues with your attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Accept family suggestions in your daily activities. Encourage considerable activity of all kinds at home for both you and your mate.

### THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor Jr.

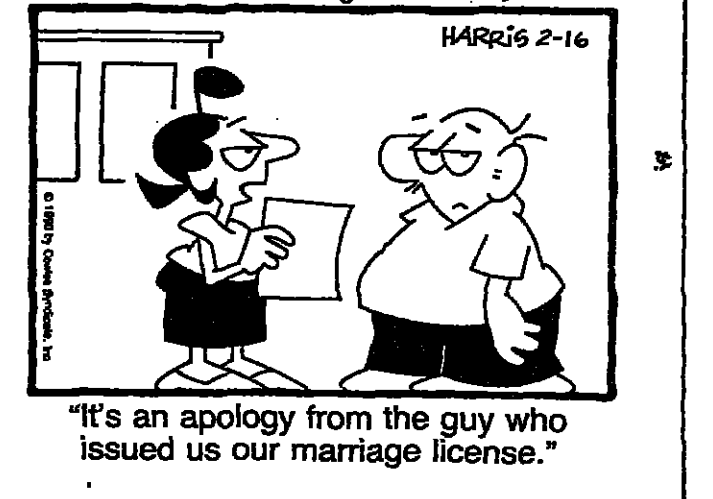
ACROSS

- Serene
- Young herring
- Alumnus for short
- Afr. plant
- Corona
- Comedian Jay
- Made room for
- Food thickener
- Pronged weapons
- Equivalence
- Ungate
- Composer Ned
- Kitchen gadgets
- Movie
- Letter
- Omitting none
- Homesick
- Cattle
- Utmost
- Pin features
- Gr. covered
- Ball
- Be seeing you
- Spurious
- Silly act
- New Guinea
- port
- Uncomplicated
- Swordsmen
- barble
- Soaked
- Hun VIP
- Provokes
- The Not
- Talent
- DH word
- Commedia
- Self
- Variety of figs
- Balm
- Lager
- Old dagger
- Full of life

DOWN

- Assign roles
- Wingless
- Ms Anderson
- Buttnskies
- Con games
- Ancient Br.
- people
- Cheers
- Have being
- Pollwogs
- Blinding light
- Like ants
- Med. course
- Small boat
- Fed up
- Defense force
- Life of
- Hazard
- Down near
- Madrid
- Land
- Humorous
- Trading post
- 31 light
- carriages
- Antlered animal
- Parlor game
- 37 Mich. St.
- 48 Raced
- 49 "The More — You"
- 50 Nipa palm
- 51 Region: abbr.
- 52 Swiss
- 55 Wapiti

### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"It's an apology from the guy who issued us our marriage license."

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INWET

KICCH

FRIMIN

HELBED

At least she's doing something about it.

SHE WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO CHANGE THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINEN ANNUL ENCORE HANSOM

Answer: What that blackboard was — A REEL WITHOUT A SOLE



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Dutch soccer fans sentenced

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Two Feyenoord Rotterdam soccer fans were sentenced to jail terms of 10 and seven months Thursday for hurling explosive devices into a group of rival spectators, Dutch television reported. The two fans, aged 18 and 19, were also ordered to pay up to \$20 in compensation to 15 people injured in the blast, according to the television report. The sentences were among the heaviest ever meted out to soccer hooligans in this nation which is internationally notorious for its fan violence problem.

## Becker named 1989 player of the year

MIAMI (R) — Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Boris Becker of West Germany received 1989 player of the year honors at the ATP awards dinner Thursday night. The 22-year-old world number two, who won five singles titles and posted a 14-3 record against other top 10-ranked players, earned the top individual award by a vote of the ATP's 500 members. In addition to his two grand slam titles last year, Becker won the year-end Masters Crown and led West Germany to a second successive Davis Cup title over Sweden. American Michael Chang, whose ranking jumped from 20th to fifth in the world last year, was named most improved player of 1989. Chang became the youngest male ever to win a Grand Slam tournament with his stunning French Open title at 17.

## Soviet Union to play in World Cup

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union are unlikely to be thrown out of the World Cup finals in Italy because of problems caused by the formation of a breakaway Soviet Professional League, International Football Federation (FIFA) officials said Thursday. FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter and Pablo Pardo, head of its judicial committee, told a news conference they were concerned at the problems facing the Soviet federation caused by its conflict with the Union of Soviet Soccer Leagues. The officials also rejected a bid by the Georgian Federation for International Recognition, the official TASS news agency reported. The two FIFA officials said they had met the head of the Georgian Federation and the senior coach of Dynamo Tbilisi, one of two clubs which recently pulled out of the recognized Soviet First Division, to try and resolve the problems currently afflicting Soviet soccer. They explained that the problems in the Soviet Union had to be resolved by the Soviet Soccer Federation, because this was the organization recognized by FIFA since 1946, and not by the newly-formed Union of Soccer Leagues which was not recognized by FIFA. Last month, the Georgian Federation voted to take no part in the Soviet soccer championship starting in March because they said the recent outbreaks of violence across the country threatened the safety of their teams.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF &amp; TAMMAM HIRSH

## WAIT YOUR TURN

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 9 8 2  
♥ Q J 10 9 2  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ 9 8

WEST EAST  
♠ 4 3 2 ♠ K Q 10 6 5  
♥ A K 3 ♥ 8 7 4  
♦ J 10 9 5 ♦ 7 6 2  
♣ K 10 3 2 ♣ 7 6

SOUTH  
♠ A J 7  
♥ A Q 5  
♦ A Q 3 5 4  
♣ A Q 1 5 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass  
2NT Pass 3NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠  
Everyone is familiar with holdup plays by declarer, especially with only one control of the enemy suit. But the holdup is a technique available to the defenders as well, and can be just as effective with two stoppers in the suit.

Since South's jump to two no trump describes a hand of defined pattern and strength, it is not forcing. North's decision to go on to game is borderline, but within reason.

The jack of diamonds by West was a perfectly normal opening lead. Declarer won and immediately attacked hearts. West followed with a low heart when first the suit was led and, to all intents and purposes dummy was dead. Declarer had no way of collecting more than one heart trick, so at trick three South tried the club finesse. That lost and another diamond came back. When the clubs failed to break, declarer was held to one spade, one heart and three tricks in each minor for down one.

Had West won the first heart, the defense would have collapsed. Declarer would have taken the diamond return in hand and led another heart, eventually forcing out the remaining stopper. The king of diamonds would still have been on the table as an entry to the hearts, and declarer would have ended up scoring one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs—just enough to land his contract.

Here's your lesson for the month—one which could make your bridge endeavors a lot more profitable. Bear in mind that most techniques available to declarer can be used equally effectively by the defenders.

## Sabatini still no. 1, but not the only

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — While defending champion Gabriela Sabatini may be the top seed among women, much of the fans' attention will be focused on a match between two Florida teen-agers at the \$2.5 million international players championships.

Thirteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati played Luanne Spadea, 17, Friday afternoon in centre court. That match is the third of four matches scheduled for that court.

Sabatini, ranked no. 3 in the world, has drawn a bye for the opening round. Other top seeds for the women are Zina Garrison, Monica Seles, Manuela Maleeva and Conchita Martinez.

Last year, Chris Evert made her final appearance in a pro tournament in her native south Florida. She lost a three-set final to Sabatini.

No. 1 Steffi Graf remains sidelined with a broken thumb and no. 2 Martina Navratilova is taking a break.

If Capriati defeats Spadea she would again face no. 10 Helena Sukova (seeded sixth). Capriati defeated Sukova 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Florida.

In the meantime, the Florida teen-agers are certain to draw the lion's share of first-day attention.

## Baseball unions reach agreement

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball owners are expected to make a new proposal in talks with the players' union Friday, and management's chief negotiator said he believed it would result in an agreement.

"At some point time... you have to sit and figure what is the very best we can do," management negotiator Chuck O'Connor said Thursday. "I tell you as honestly as we can,

"That's neat, I've never played Jennifer," said Spadea. "It will be fun."

Spadea, ranked no. 202, won the USTA of key Biscayne, her first pro title, by beating Patricia Fry in the final here two weeks ago.

The next day, a tired Spadea lost in the qualifying round at the Virginia Slims of Florida. Spadea won her first match and lost the second.

"I was a little worn out from all the tennis that week," said Spadea. "If my second qualifying match had been another day, I might have won."

The men's field is the strongest ever for the Lipton international players championship.

Some notable absences from the top 20 players are John McEnroe (groin injury), Michael Chang (hip injury), and Mats Wilander (who withdrew for personal reasons). Jimmy Connors, who has slipped to no. 24, will be out with a wrist injury.

this is what we have done.... It is not just another proposal."

Negotiations broke off March 7 and the American and National leagues are expected to announce that opening day, scheduled for April 2, has been pushed back.

Talks slated over the issue of salary arbitration for players with between two and three years of major-league service.

The union has asked that half of them be made eligible; management wants the level for arbitration to remain at three years and countered with a \$4-million bonus pool.

"It is substantial and beyond what the industry has seen before," O'Connor said.

O'Connor said the six-owner player relations committee would return to New York and meet Friday morning prior to the negotiating session, scheduled for the afternoon at the union's office.

"There are some areas we need to finalize," O'Connor said. "There are some areas we are discussing with the union as we speak."

O'Connor said that revenue sharing, which the union strongly resists, would not be part of the plan. Other than that, he said, "I'm not going to get into the details."

"We are trying to put our best foot forward with this proposal," O'Connor said.

"We are holding nothing back. We are trying to address the needs of a 700-man bargaining unit, not just the needs of 40 or 50 people...."

"We have put together what we believe to be the most generous economic package for baseball players in the history of this collective bargaining."

In addition to salary arbitration eligibility, the sides also are part on the minimum salary and the benefit plan.

The union is asking for a \$105,000 while management is offering \$90,000.

## Cascarino to make debut, Aston Villa stays ahead

LONDON (R) — Irish international striker Tony Cascarino makes his debut for Aston Villa Saturday as he side battle to stay ahead of Liverpool at the top of the English Soccer First Division.

But manager Graham Taylor, seeking Villa's first league title in nine years to make up for the disappointment of being knocked out of the F.A. Cup by second Division Oldham Athletic, was keeping quiet about who would make way for Cascarino.

"You will just have to wait and see," said Taylor after signing Cascarino for a record \$2.3 million.

Villa, who have lost three of their last four matches, travel to Derby Saturday, a day before Liverpool, just two points behind in the standings, meet Manches-

ter United at old Trafford. Ian Ormondroyd, successfully switched to the wing by Taylor this season, was left out of the villa side for the quarter-final cup tie Wednesday, which Oldham won 3-0, but said he did not expect Cascarino will be a direct threat," Ormondroyd said. "I've been operating on the left-wing side so maybe Ian Olney is more at risk."

Injury could keep Manchester United's Welsh striker Mark Hughes out of the side against Liverpool — the first game he would have missed since returning to Manchester United nearly two years ago.

Hughes, who came back from Barcelona at the start of last season, pulled a calf muscle during the 0-0 draw against Everton

Wednesday. "We will give him every chance but when mark goes off injured you know it is something serious," said Manager Alex Ferguson whose side "are dangerously close to the relegation zone."

Chelsea, which midfielder John Bumstead making his 300th appearance, seek to extend their unbeaten run of six league and cup wins, at Arsenal Saturday.

England midfielder Steve Hodge, who twisted his ankle 12 days ago, is in line for a recall to Nottingham Forest for the trip to Charlton, who look certain to go down to the Second Division.

"It doesn't take an Einstein to work out that it's looking bleak now," said Charlton manager Lennie Lawrence. "We had a little revival but we haven't scored in our last three games and we've ground to a halt again."

## 'Dessie' upset by outsider

CHELTHAM (AP) — Age caught up with Desert Orchid Thursday. The 11-year-old Gray, Britain's most popular thoroughbred horse, ran out of stamina in the most hyped race of his career.

In front of a packed crowd that included queen mother Elizabeth and with millions more watching on television, "Dessie," renowned for his jumping prowess and winner of 31 of his previous 60 races, managed only third place in the \$160,000 Cheltenham Gold Cup.

He simply couldn't stand the pace.

Norton's Coin, a 100 to 1 outsider, became the longest-priced winner in the 66-year history of the Gold Cup, regarded as the purists' race and second only in British steeplechasing prestige to the Grand National.

Ridden by Graham McCourt and owned and trained in Wales by cattle farmer Sirrel Griffiths, Norton's Coin was third at the last of the 22 fences but jumped it cleanly and stormed to victory.

Three-quarters of a length behind, Toby Tobias came home second at 8 to 1 with Mark

Fitman on board. Desert Orchid and jockey Richard Dunwoody were four lengths further back. Nine other horses started the race.

Priced at 10 to 11, Desert Orchid was the hottest Gold Cup favourite for 15 years as he attempted to become only the sixth horse to win the 3½-mile race twice.

Everything looked good as Dessie fluently moved into his trademark front-running style and set the pace. He brought a roar from the stands as he took the third fence from home still in the lead.

## STRETCHED LIMOUSINE CARS FOR SALE (Duty unpaid)

Mercedes 230E — Model 1984.  
Mercedes 500 SEL — Model 1984.  
The two cars are in excellent condition.

If interested please call Tel. 810115, 823192.

## SUPER DELUXE FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Very nicely furnished, consisting of two bedrooms, salon, dining, sitting room L-shaped, two bathrooms, large kitchen, and two glassed-in verandas, with separate central heating, telephone. Flat area 185-square metres. The building consists of five flats.

Location: 8th Circle, Jebel Amman, near San Rock Hotel.  
Tel: 813188

## CAR FOR SALE

1986 Ford Lynx, 5 speeds, 2 doors, A.C., radio cassette.  
Duty not paid  
Tel.: 683753

## Ma'in Spa Village for fun &amp; cure

Exercise.....Your Advantage!

Ma'in Spa Village

where there is Hydrotherapy  
Electrotherapy  
Mud therapy

alongside Relaxation, fun and all the benefits of  
VACATION RESORT

For further information please call  
Tel. 601554 — Amman

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spanish Embassy in Amman has two vacancies: one at the Residence and the other at the Chancery with the following characteristics:

First vacancy: Caretaker and cleaner.  
Second vacancy: Gardener and cleaner.  
Salary: Assigned by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Working hours: Six days up to 48 hours weekly.

Requirements:  
1. Former experience for the work required.  
2. Knowledge of English and Arabic. Merit: Knowledge of Spanish.

Petitions should be addressed to the Spanish Embassy; P. O. Box 454, in writing, within three weeks from this date.

For further information please call telephone number: 655889.

Cinema Tel: 625155

## RAINBOW

## RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

## CONCORD

## WILLY MILLY

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

## PHILADELPHIA

Noor Al Sharif/  
Nabeelah Obeld  
THE OTHER WOMAN  
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel: 675571

## NIJOUN

NIGHT & TRAITORS  
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

## PLAZA

## DEADLY PURSUIT

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

**On the occasion of MOTHER'S DAY** announces the arrival of the first shipment of **LADIES' & MEN'S ITALIAN SHOES** at competitive prices  
**Shmeisani — Grindlays Bank Bldg.**  
Tel. 669457 (9 a.m. - 8 p.m.).

**BIGGEST SALE EVER**  
**DONNAY TENNIS RACKETS**  
**EVERYTHING TO GO**  
**30-50%**  
**ALL MODELS OFFER TILL 30 MARCH**  
**LACOSTE SHOP**  
TEL: 605311  
**WADI SAORA**  
N.B. Also available 180 LACOSTE mid-size rackets at JD 28 each (for total quantity)

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
2 bedrooms, large spacious living room, dining room and large kitchen, telephone, separate central heating, central T.V. antenna, wall-to-wall carpeting, second floor, separate entrance.  
Location: 4th Circle, Embassy Street  
Rent JD 2,500.  
Telephone 674774.

**Alleen Style Master**  
Phone: 668236  
Dog Grooming  
For all breeds  
By appointment only

**Our Mother MOTHER'S DAY**  
Mothers are Precious  
They deserve their Birth Gem  
**LOW PRICES 20% OFF**  
**World Resources**  
Amra Hotel - Amman

**SPANISH SPRING COURSE**  
The Spanish Cultural Centre will hold a spring course for teaching Spanish.  
The course duration is three months, it will start March 21 to June 14, 1990.  
Registration for the course starts March 12.  
Courses for all levels and each includes 3 classes a week.  
For more information please call the Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle  
Tel. 624049.



## Deputies differ on how well Gorbachev will use his power

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet lawmakers knew Thursday they had handed even more political power to Mikhail Gorbachev, but there was less certainty he would use it well to reform the country.

Top officials loyal to the election of Gorbachev to the Soviet Union's first executive presidency as a major step toward democracy.

But some members of the Congress of People's Deputies, the national parliament that elected Gorbachev president Wednesday, said he had acted indecisively in the past and would have to show an "iron fist" to make his programme work. Others were afraid of just the opposite — that he would be too ready to wield his new powers.

Their differences reflected the wide diversity of opinion cutting through Soviet society as a whole. There was a surprisingly low vote total for Gorbachev: Nearly 500 deputies voted against him, and he received only about 200 votes more than he needed out of the 2,245 deputies.

Gorbachev has managed to restore many political freedoms, leading to the Communist Party's agreement to give up its monopoly on political power, but the economy has worsened considerably during his five years in power.

Nevertheless, Communist Party politburo member Yegor Ligachev, who is widely regarded by reform-minded Soviets as perhaps the most conservative member of the party's ruling body, called the election "a major success."

"This is a truly positive development, especially at a time of party and social renewal, when both the party and society are undergoing transformation," Ligachev told the TASS news agency.

Leonid Abalkin, Gorbachev's point man on economic reform, and his military chief of staff, Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev, joined in praising the establishment of a presidential form of government.

"I don't see any other person who could take upon himself such a historic mission," said writer Chingiz Aitmatov.

Other deputies took a dimmer view of Gorbachev's election and his prospects for reforming the Soviet Union.

Deputy Anatoly Alexeyev of the Caspian Sea region, said he voted for Gorbachev but that he was going to have to get much tougher on his countrymen to pull them out of ethnic disputes and economic failure.

"We need an iron fist," Alexeyev said. "That's what I think, and a lot of other deputies think, too."

"If he continues to run his policies softly, nothing will work," Alexeyev said.

Deputy Yevgeny Kogan, a spokesman for Russians who live in Estonia, said he voted against Gorbachev because he was doing nothing to keep Estonia from breaking away from the Soviet Union.

"What would you do if a state decided it was leaving, and the president didn't take any measures to stop it?" he asked.

In the republics, which Gorbachev pledged to keep in the Soviet Union, independence-minded activists were a little more positive about the election.

"It's important for us to have a person who can stabilize the Soviet Union," said Mihail Bronshteyn, an Estonian econ-

ist who is part of the brain trust pushing that Baltic republic toward independence. "To live next to an unstable Soviet Union is dangerous for everyone."

The election of Gorbachev was a good thing, said Valdis Antanaitis of Lithuania, because "he's more-or-less democratic."

Moscow deputy Ilya Zaslavsky said he found both bad and good in Gorbachev's election. Gorbachev will "start to strengthen his personal power, which is bad, and start to break up party power, which is good."

Igor Shamshev, a deputy belonging to the opposition inter-regional deputies group, said that Gorbachev apparently had lost both the votes of conservatives and liberals in the balloting, but "still the centre turned out stronger than the extremes."

Leaders congratulate Gorbachev

World leaders congratulated Gorbachev Thursday following his election to the Soviet Union's new and powerful post of president, and they hailed its implications for their relations with Moscow.

U.S. President George Bush sent a letter "wishing him well as he leads the Soviet Union into the next stage of perestroika and democratisation," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

He added that Bush is looking forward "to their forthcoming summit in June as an opportunity to broaden the already considerable elements of cooperation between our two countries."

Enrique Baron Crespo, president of the European Parliament, said in a message to the Soviet leader that his election "comes at a time of great opportunity for the establishment of peace and democracy throughout Europe."

"This situation is itself a product of your own ambitious programme of reform and restructuring," he added in the message sent on behalf of the European Community's legislative assembly in Strasbourg, France.

"The European Parliament is ready to play its part in strengthening relations between the Soviet Union and the European Community," he said, inviting Gorbachev to address the Parliament.

Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa welcomed Gorbachev's election in separate messages of congratulations.

"I am convinced that your appointment to this respectable post will meet a very favourable reception in Poland," Jaruzelski wrote in a lengthy message carried by the Polish News Agency (PAP).

"With great understanding and frank sympathy, we observe the process of a versatile political, social and economic rebuilding and the dynamism of the Soviet Union's peaceful foreign policy," he said.

Walesa, in a telegram released by his office in Gdansk, wished Gorbachev the "best of luck," and said the new post reflected an "expression of trust" in the Soviet leader's reforms.

In one of the first commentaries in the Polish press, Soviet affairs specialist Leon Bojko said the vote represented a "breakthrough" in history of Russia and the Soviet Union.

"Now power is accumulated in the hands of one man, but for the first time this is constitutional power resulting from the law and within the law," Bojko wrote in the Thursday edition of the pro-Solidarity Gazeta Wyborcza.

## Violence, rigging mar Bangladesh rural poll

DHAKA (R) — Rival groups with guns and home-made bombs have killed one woman and wounded nearly 500 other people during Bangladesh rural elections this week, police said.

Bangladesh and foreign monitoring groups said ballot stuffing, snatching of ballot boxes and under-age voting were rampant despite strong presence of security personnel at polling stations.

The latest violence was reported from Hathazari sub-district in southern Chittagong area where two powerful members of the ruling Jatiya Party were the main contestants.

The incumbent sub-district chairman of Hathazari, Jatiya leader Wahidul Alam, told reporters armed men burst into voting centres, tore up papers, threatened poll officials and pushed three vehicles into a pond.

"Many voters ran away for fear of their life. Others who stayed were told that all the votes were cast by 11 a.m.," Alam said.

Election officials earlier told reporters the presence of ministers near polling stations provoked tension and even helped to neutralise security measures.

One woman died and about 500 people have been wounded in sporadic violence since Wednesday, police told reporters. More than 100 people have been arrested.

The election is seen as a test case for President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's commitment to fair elections but monitoring groups said there was rigging.

"There was evidence of rigging and ballot piracy," Father R. W. Timm, president of the Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh, told reporters.

Police and witnesses said violence forced the suspension of polling in more than 50 centres but a senior police officer played down the problem.

## S. Korean cabinet resigns

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean cabinet resigned Friday, clearing the way for President Roh Tae-woo to reshuffle the government's inner circle, probably Saturday, a government spokesman said.

The resignations were tendered at a special cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kang Young-hoon, who is expected to keep his post. Under South Korea's presidential system, Roh, elected to a set five-year term, names the cabinet.

No other details were given but another government spokesman said the president might announce the new cabinet Saturday.

State radio quoted unnamed senior officials as saying the reshuffle, involving nearly two-thirds of the 26-member cabinet, would be the biggest since Roh took power in February 1988.

All key economic ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Planning Minister Cho Son, Finance Minister Lee Kyu-sung and Trade Minister

Han Seung-soo, were expected to be dropped, the radio and local newspapers report.

They said Roh was expected to replace Interior Minister Kim Tae-ho but retain Prime Minister Kang and Foreign Minister Choi Ho-jung to stress continuity in major foreign policies.

The current economic team led by academic Cho has been criticised by top politicians and business leaders for failing to stop a decline in the growth of the South Korean economy.

South Korean economic growth slowed to an estimated 6.5 per cent in 1989 from more than 12 per cent reported in each of the three previous years.

The local press expected Cho to be replaced by Lee Seung-yun, a former finance minister and a leading figure in the government party.

Lee favours a high level of export-driven economic expansion while Cho has concentrated on a more equal income distribution and on fighting inflation.

## Taiwan opposition denied meeting with president

TAIPEI (R) — Military dragged 14 leaders of Taiwan's fledgling opposition party kicking and screaming from the presidential palace Friday after they were denied a meeting with President Lee Teng-hui.

The group, including 11 Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) members of Taiwan's National Assembly, the party's chairman and the secretary-general, shouted and struggled wildly with club-toting police at a side entrance before they were ejected.

DPP Chairman Huang Hsin-chieh fell to the ground and was hurt during the fracas, sparking cries of anger from a crowd.

"You are the enemies of the people of Taiwan," assemblyman Hung Chi-chang yelled at the police.

Meanwhile, in a legal set-back, Taiwan's grand justices Friday ruled the DPP national assembly could legally be denied voting rights in the assembly if they continued to refuse to take an oath of allegiance.

The 11 DPP members, the only opposition in the 752-member electoral college, have been blocked by riot police from taking their seats for the past four days.

They have refused to swear allegiance to the "Republic of China," the official name used by the Nationalist government, changing their oath instead to read the "Republic of Taiwan."

The Nationalists fled to Taiwan after the Communist victory in China in 1949 and still claim to be the rightful rulers of all China.

The National Assembly, which will decide whether to give a new six-year term to President Lee on March 21, is under increasing fire for what appears to be a last-ditch attempt to expand its powers.

With no opposition present, the assembly's screening committee has shored through a number of controversial bills this week which would boost assemblymen's pay, allow them to meet once a year, prolong their terms and even allow them to introduce legislation.

## Sandinistas must disband before we do, contra commander says

MUELLE DE LOS BUEYES, Nicaragua (R) — Sporting new uniforms and equipped with sophisticated communications gear, contra rebels inside Nicaragua say they are not prepared to disband until the Sandinista Armed Forces do so.

"As long as the Sandinista army and the Interior Ministry forces are intact there won't be democracy in Nicaragua and there won't be peace in Central America," said rebel commander Denis Galeano Cornejo, known as Comandante Johnny.

"We are going to remain armed in order to guarantee all that has been achieved," he told reporters this week in remote hills of southeast Nicaragua.

Jhany, the younger brother or cousin of Commander-in-Chief Israel Galeano, said he commanded 4,000 rebels, some of whom remained in camps inside Honduras. He said he had received military training in the United States.

He gave reporters a communiqué signed by a contra wing known as the "Nicaraguan In-

ternal Resistance," previously unknown but not a renegade outfit in view of their sophisticated equipment.

The communiqué told Nicaraguans to be alert against Sandinista efforts to reverse last month's election, in which U.S.-backed candidate Violeta Chamorro defeated the Sandinistas' President Daniel Ortega.

It appeared unlikely that the rebels would be disbanded by April 25, the day Chamorro takes office.

Ortega, Chamorro and regional leaders have called for the demobilisation of the U.S.-backed contras, who have fought an eight-year war against the Sandinista government.

Ortega said the continued presence of the contras would threaten a peaceful transition of power but he has promised to hand over authority even if the rebels are not demobilised.

After her victory, Chamorro said the causes of the contra struggle had disappeared.

But Johnny said that if the

contras were disarmed and disbanded the new government would be under the constant threat of a coup by Sandinista military.

"There would be a coup d'état against the new government from one day to the next," he said.

Ortega said this week in South America that the Sandinistas would not stage a coup against the new government.

Chamorro has said she will reduce the size of the Sandinista army and Interior Ministry forces, which, with militias, total an estimated 100,000.

Members of her National Opposition Union (UNO) alliance have said they will abide by the Nicaraguan constitution which says the Sandinista army is the country's only armed force.

Despite Chamorro's refusal to include contra army members in her government, Johnny said she would not have been elected without them.

"Those free elections were held because of the armed struggle waged by us, the combatants," he said.

## Soviet Georgia wants talks on independence

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Georgia has denounced its incorporation into the Soviet Union in the 1920s as illegal and says that like Lithuania it wants talks with Moscow on independence.

The Georgian Supreme Soviet made the appeal in a declaration adopted on March 9 and published in a copy of the local official newspaper Zarya Vostoka, which reached Moscow Friday.

"The Georgian Supreme Soviet wants to begin negotiations on the establishment of an independent Georgian government, because it considers the 1922 USSR agreement regarding relations with Georgia illegal," the declaration said.

The statement, which follows campaigns for independence in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, is the latest challenge to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

A top Georgian deputy reached by telephone from Moscow, where he had been attending the meeting of the national parliament, told Reuters Friday that Georgian leaders wanted "talks along Lithuanian lines" with the central authorities.

## Satellite stranded in dangerous low orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — An uninsured \$150-million communications satellite stranded in a dangerously low orbit appeared to be a loss Thursday as engineers tried desperately to boost it to a higher orbit.

The Intelsat VI satellite was until March 25 in its present orbit before it plunged back through Earth's atmosphere, said Maj. Thomas Niemann of the U.S. Space Command in Colorado.

"We are taking all steps necessary to place the satellite in a stable higher orbit where it could remain indefinitely," said Dean Burch, director general of Intelsat.

However, Niemann said it was uncertain whether the satellite could survive more than a few weeks even in a higher orbit.

The 5-ton satellite was propelled into space Wednesday at a cost of about \$270 million in the fourth commercial launch of a payload by a U.S. company.

Grounded up in the wrong orbit after failing to separate properly from the second stage of its Titan 3 booster rocket. The satellite was separated about seven hours later by computer commands sent from Intelsat's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

But the rocket motor that was to have boosted the satellite into higher orbit remained attached to the second stage booster.

## Peruvian police, U.S. agents supervise coca destruction

SANTA LUCIA, Peru (AP) — Workers have begun destroying clandestine plots of coca seedlings under the supervision of Peruvian police and U.S. drug agents, the first major strategy implemented from last month's anti-drug summit in Colombia.

The operations began this week on a small scale in Peru's coca-rich upper Huallaga Valley, targeting isolated fields of young plants before they can be transplanted. The workers used gas-powered weed cutters to destroy the plants.

An alarming increase in fields planted has prompted the government to renew its eradication programme, which was suspended more than a year ago, according to U.S. embassy spokesman Gene Bigler.

Despite a drastic drop in price in the last six months for Peruvian coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine, Peruvians continue to move into the valley, hoping to get rich off the drug trade.

"They're cutting down all the trees," said Gen. Juan Zarate, head of Peru's anti-drug police, from the back seat of a helicopter cutting through the heavy jungle air 152 metres above the valley floor.

Zarate pointed out new coca plantations carved out of the

jungle hillsides, creating a haphazard patchwork of emerald hues up and down the valley.

"There's going to be so much environmental damage," he said. Zarate took reporters to visit a test site where government scientists were studying the environmental effects of applying the herbicide spike to illegal coca fields.

Spike is one of a number of eradication methods under study. U.S. officials favour its use, saying testing so far indicates it does not cause ecological damage. But the Peruvian government has said more tests need to be done before it would consider using the chemical.

The move to begin manual eradication marks a major policy change for the government of President Alan Garcia, who favours a strategy of helping farmers gradually shift to other crops.

The accord signed in Cartagena, Colombia, by Garcia, U.S. President George Bush, and the Presidents of Bolivia and Colombia, linked eradication to economic development aid and the opening of U.S. markets to crops such as coffee, cacao and palm oil to give the coca growers alternative means of support.

However, the United States has said it is reluctant to fund development projects with Peru's 3,000 per cent inflation and a growing leftist insurgency by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas, who operate freely in much of the Huallaga Valley.

But U.S. officials proposed going ahead with a limited eradication programme to stem the growth of coca production.

The Peruvian government "has asked us for our support in eradication, and, of course, we're delighted," Bigler said.

The eradication teams operate out of the U.S.-built base at Santa Lucia, 420 kilometres northeast in Lima in the upper Huallaga Valley, the world's richest source of coca leaf.

About 350 eradication workers are stationed in Santa Lucia, along with about 120 Peruvian police and 50 to 40 U.S. drug agents, contracted American helicopter pilots and mechanics.

Ten UH-1 helicopters on loan from the U.S. State Department ferry the workers from the base to clandestine seedling plots, hidden under the dense jungle canopy.

Since September, the police have conducted raids against airstrips and jungle laboratories

used by smugglers to transform the leaves into a paste and ship it to Colombia, where it is made into cocaine.

The police have destroyed about 125 labs since September, according to an embassy official.

But despite interdiction efforts in Peru and Colombia, where authorities have confiscated hundreds of airplanes used by the smugglers, a recent U.S. government report says the number of acres planted in coca in the Andean nations grew by 12 per cent last year.

More than 250,000 people are involved in growing and processing the drug plant in Peru, bringing more than \$1 billion a year into the country, according to U.S. and Peruvian government estimates.

The government estimated that coca grows on half a million acres in Peru, with 60 of it in the Huallaga Valley.

As the helicopter swooped loudly over a small ridge, Zarate looked down on a woman and child standing next to a thatched hut with their latest coca harvest drying in the sun nearby.

"What we need is to give these people something else to do so they stop moving in here," he said.

## COLUMN

### Filmmakers race to cash in on Lambada dance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — About the only thing hotter than Lambada these days is the fever with which filmmakers are trying to cash in on the bump-and-grind dance. Two independent movie companies owned by rival cousins are set to release quickie films head to head, taking advantage of the steamy Afro-Brazilian dance sensation sweeping the country.

Canon Films' "Lambada" completed production only last week and will open on some 1,000 screens around the United States. Made in six weeks for about \$4 million, the film is about a high school teacher who uses Lambada to encourage burlesque to study. The Forbidden Dance, produced by 21st Century Film Corp., opens on 500 U.S. screens after a month in the making. It tells the story of a Brazilian princess who uses Lambada dancing to save her country's rain forest.

"They're both being rushed out," said John Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations Co., which tracks movie box office performance. Canon originally scheduled a May 4 release and 21st Century an April 6 premiere. Most films take at least a year, and often twice as long, to make and release.

Krier speculated the intense competition between the films is tied to the rivalry of cousins Menahem Golan of 21st Century and Yoram Globus of Canon. They founded Canon, which has since been bought by Parde Communications. Dance instructors hope the films will fuel the already heated interest in Lambada, just as Saturday Night Fever, Dirty Dancing, and Flashdance rivaled club dancing. "Lambada's going to bring people back into the studios, get them back into complex dancing," said Los Angeles instructor Michael Davis, who has taught the dance about three months. "The last dance craze was the hustle some seven years ago, since then it's just been freestyle dancing. Now it's time for a return to couple dancing." Born decades ago in Brazil's northern Bahia, Lambada somewhat resembles other Latin dances, such as Salsa. It is a close dance, with male and female partners entwined around each other, grinding their hips together.

Quayle returns gift of jaguar cubs

BRASILIA (R) — Vice President Dan Quayle has returned a pair of jaguar cubs given him by the president of Paraguay because the animals are an endangered species, a Quayle aide has said.

The sleek cats, a gift of President Andres Rodriguez, were waiting for Quayle at the U.S. embassy in Asuncion Monday evening when he arrived in Paraguay for an overnight visit during his Latin American goodwill tour. Aides said he would donate the jaguars, named Chaco and Paloma, to a zoo in the United States. But a Quayle aide said a check of the endangered species act showed that the five-month-old cubs could not be brought to the United States without a special permit. Reports of the gift also caused an outcry from U.S. animal rights groups.

Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson told a Rodriguez aide that Quayle would prefer that the jaguars be returned to the wild. The aide blamed the embassy staff for the diplomatic embarrassment, saying Quayle's office had been reluctant to accept the jaguars in the first place. U.S. diplomats in Paraguay insisted it would create an incident if the gift was refused, the aide said.

Global weather (major world cities)

AMSTERDAM 12 54 18 64 Clear  
ATHENS 10 53 16 61 Clear  
BARCELONA 19 64 14 76 Cloudy  
BANGKOK 24 75 24 75 Cloudy  
BUENOS AIRES 18 64 28 79 Clear  
CAIRO 12 52 20 68 Cloudy  
CHICAGO 11 52 20 68 Cloudy  
COPENHAGEN 10 53 16 61 Clear  
FRANKFURT 12 54 17 57 Clear  
GENEVA 10 53 16 61 Clear  
HONG KONG 18 64 20 68 Clear  
ISTANBUL 12 52 10 50 Clear  
LONDON 10 53 16 61 Clear  
LOS ANGELES 68 49 28 70 Clear  
MADRID 10 53 16 61 Clear  
MECCA 10 53 16 61 Clear  
MONTREAL 11 54 20 68 Cloudy  
MOSCOW 12 54 17 57 Clear  
NEW DELHI 17 62 31 67 Clear  
NEW YORK 12 52 17 57 Clear  
PARIS 10 53 16 61 Clear  
ROME 10 53 16 61 Clear  
SYDNEY 10 53 16 61 Clear  
TOKYO 10 53 16 61 Clear  
VIENNA 10 53 16 61 Clear

APR 11 1990